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CHRONICON MANNIÆ,
OR A
CHRONICLE of the KINGS
OF
M A N.

SUPPOSED TO BE WRITTEN, BY THE
MONKS OF THE ABBEY OF RUSSIN.

WITH THE NORWEGIAN ACCOUNT
OF OLAVE THE BLACK KING OF
MAN. AND OF HACO'S EXPEDI-
TION AGAINST SCOTLAND.

TOGETHER WITH THE CIVIL AND EC-
CLESIASTICAL HISTORY OF THE IS-
LAND, FROM THE EARLIEST AC-
COUNTS TO THIS PRESENT TIME.

P E R T H:
PRINTED for JOHN GILLIES,

M, DCC, LXXXIV

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TO THE PUBLIC.

THE following Chronicle of the Kings of Man, is supposed to be written by the Monks. of the Abbey of Ruffin, and was published from an old M. S. by Mr. W. Cambden in his Britannia, which is a Book seldom to be met with in this Country, but in the Libraries of the curious; and as it relates to the Antiquities of Scotland, it will no doubt be particularly acceptable, to every lover of Scottish Antiquity. The account of Haço's expedition against Scotland, and the Anecdotes of Olave, the Black King of Man, were published in Denmark, by Mr. Johnston, and it was thought proper to add such extracts from these publications, as

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have a tendency to illustrate more fully the Chronicle of Man; the arrangements which Mr. Gibson has made in his Edition of Cambden, are closely followed; as also, his further remarks on the History of the Island.

That which relates to the present state of the Island, has been chiefly gathered from the best information, that the Publisher could obtain, from some of the most intelligent Natives, who reside in this Country.---If this attempt to revive Scottish Antiquity, shall merit the favour of the Public, it is the Publishers design, to present them soon with some original Publications, which will have a tendency to illustrate more fully, the History and Antiquities of this Country.

P E R T H:

1st. April, 1784.

DESCRIPTION

OF

M A N.

NORTH from the Isle of Anglesey lies the Isle of Mona, Cæsar mentions it, and says, it is situated in the middle between Britain & Ireland. Ptolemy calls it Monoeda, or Moneitha, that is to say, [if I may be allowed to conjecture] the more remote Mona, to distinguish it from the other Mona or Anglesey. Pliny terms it Monabia, Orosius Menavia, and Bede Menavia secunda; 'in whom Mona or Anglesey is called Menavia prior, and both British Islands; yet I must note, that this is falsely read Mevania in these Writers. Ninius, who goes also by the name of Gildas, calls it Eubonia and Manaw; the Britains call it Menaw, the Inhabitants Manning, and the English the Isle of Man; lying stretch'd in the middle between the north parts of Ireland and Britain, says

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Giraldus Cambrensis; which raised no small stir among the ancients, in deciding to which of the territories it most properly belonged. At last this difference was thus adjusted: Forasmuch as the venomous worms would live here, that were brought over for experiment's sake, it was generally thought to belong to Britain, Yet the Inhabitants are very like the Irish both in their speech and manners; and not without something of the Norwegians in them.

It lies out from north to south for about thirty Italian miles in length; but in the widest part of it is hardly above fifteen miles broad; nor above eight in the narrowest. In Bede's time it contained three hundred families, and Mona nine hundred and sixty. But at present it can reckon 17 parish churches. Here flax and hemp grow in great plenty; and here are good pastures and corn-fields; which produce barley and wheat, but especially oats in great abundance; for this reason the people generally feed upon oat-bread. Here are likewise great herds of cattle, and many flocks of sheep; but both the sheep and cattle are like those in their neighbour Country Ireland, much less than in England, and not so well headed. The want of wood for fuel here is supplied by a bituminous kind of turf; in digging for which they often light upon trees

lying buried under ground. Towards the middle this Isle is mountainous; the highest hill is Sceafell, from which they can see Scotland, England, and Ireland, in a clear day. The chief town is Ruffin, situated towards the north side of the Island, which, from a castle and garison in it, is commonly called Castle-town; where, within a little Isle, Pope Gregory the 4th erected an Episcopal See, the Bishop whereof named Sodorensis (from the Island, as is believed,) had formerly jurisdiction over all the Hebrides. But it is now limited to this Island; and his Metropolitan is the Archbishop of York. This Bishop has neither seat nor vote among the Lords of Parliament in England. The most populous town is Duglas; for it has the best harbour, and most easie entrance, and is frequented by the French & other foreigners, who come hither with their bay-salt, and buy up leather, course wooll, and salt beef to export with them. On the south-side of the Island stands Bala Curi, where the Bishop generally resides; and the Pile, a fort erected in a small Island, and defended by a pretty good garison. Before the south point, there lies a little Island which they call the Calf of Man, where there are great store of those sea-fowl term'd Puffins, and of those Ducks and Drakes said to breed in

rotten wood, which the English call Bernacles, the Scots Clakes and Soland Geese.

What remains of the account of this Island, is here added out of a letter which I received from the most learned and reverend Father in God, John Meryk Bishop thereof. This Island not only supplies its own wants with its own cattle, fish, and corn; but exports great quantities into foreign countreys every year. Yet this plenty is rather to be ascribed to the pains and industry of the natives, than to the goodness of the soil. However, the happiness of this Isle is owing to nothing more than the government of the Earl of Derby, who at his own proper charges hath defended it with a body of regular and standing troops against its neighbouring enemies, and laid out the greatest part of his revenues upon it. All causes are decided betwixt man and man without any expence or writing, by certain judges whom they choose among themselves, and call Deemsters. For the Magistrate taketh up a stone, and after he has mark'd it, gives it to the plaintiff; by virtue whereof he summons in his witnesses and the defendant. If the case is difficult, and of great consequence, it is referred to the hearing of twelve men, whom they call the Keys of the Island. They have also certain Coroners; these they call Annos; who are instead

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of Sheriffs, and execute their office. As for the Ecclesiastical Judge, he hears and determines all causes within eight days from the citation; and the party must either stand to his sentence or go to goal. As their language is peculiar, so likewise are their laws and money, as I have heard; which are both signs of a distinct sovereignty. The Ecclesiastical laws in force here, next after the Cannon law, come nearest to the civil. Neither the Judge nor the Clerks of the Court have any fees either for the process or instruments. As for the mischievous effects of witchcraft, of which English writers tell us; there's nothing in it. The richer sort, and those that have estates, imitate the gentry of Lancashire in splendid living, and integrity. The women never stir abroad but with their winding sheets about them, to put them in mind of mortality. If a woman be tried and receives sentence of death, she is sow'd up in a sack, and thrown from a rock into the sea. Stealing, and begging from door to door, is universally detested. The people are wonderful religious, and all of them zealously conformable to the Church of England. They are likewise great enemies to the disorders as well Civil as Ecclesiastical of their neighbour Countreys. And whereas the whole Isle is divided into two parts,

South and north; the Inhabitants of this speak like the Scots, and those of the other like the Irish.

If I should here subjoin a short history of the affairs of this Island, it would be worth my while; and truth it self seems to challenge it, that hereby I may preserve the memory of such actions, as are, if not already buried in oblivion, yet next door to it. That this Island, as well as Britain, was possessed by Britains, is granted on all sides. But when the northern nations broke in, like a violent tempest, upon these southern parts, it became subject to the Scots. In the time of Honorius and Arcadius, Orosius says, that it was as much inhabited by the Scots as Ireland was; and Ninius tells us of one Birle * a certain Scot that held it. Yet the same author observes, that they were driven out of Britain, and the Isles belonging to it, by Cuneda the Grandfather of Maglocunas; who from the cruel ravages he made in this Island, is call'd the Dragon of the Isles by Gildas. Afterwards, this Island, and likewise Anglesey aforesaid, was subjected to the English Monarchy by Edwin King of the Northumbrians; if we suppose them

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both to be signified by the word *Menavia*, as Writers would have us think. At this time it was reputed a British Island. At last, when the north, overswarming a second time, sent out another Brood of Normans, Danes, and Norwegians, to seek their fortune in the world; the Norwegians, who most sadly infested this sea by their piracies, possessed themselves of this island and the Hebrides, and set up petty Princes over them; of whom I will here add this Historical Account as it is word for word in an old Manuscript; lest it should perish by some unlucky accident. The title it bears is *Chronicon Mannie*, i. e. A Chronicle of Man. It seems to have been written by the Monks of *Ruslin-Abbey*, the most eminent Monastery that was in this Island.

A CHRONICLE OF THE KINGS OF MAN.

IN the year of our Lord 1065. died Edward King of England of pious memory; to whom Harold son of Godwin succeeded. Harold Har-

' fager King of Norway rais'd war against him,
 ' and was so beaten at a battle at Stainfordbridge,
 ' that his men ran away. In this flight one
 ' Godred surnamed Crovan the son of Harold the
 ' black, escaping out of Iseland, came to Godred
 ' the son of Syrric, King of Man at that time,
 ' and was honourably entertained by him.

' The same year William the Bastard conquer-
 ' ed England; and Godred the son of Syrric
 ' King of Man died, and was succeeded by his
 ' son Fingall.

' An. 1066. Godred Crovan got a numerous
 ' fleet together, and arrived at Man, where he
 ' fought with the inhabitants; but was overcome
 ' and put to flight. Having rallied his forces,
 ' and his fleet, he landed again at Man, fought
 ' the inhabitants, and was routed by them. Hav-
 ' ing rais'd a great army the third time, he came
 ' by night to the port called Ramfa, and laid an
 ' ambuscade of three hundred men in a wood
 ' upon the hollow brow of a hill call'd Scacafel.
 ' As soon as the sun was up, the inhabitants drew
 ' themselves up in battalia, and fell upon Godred
 ' with great violence. When both parties were
 ' close engaged, the three hundred men that lay
 ' in ambush behind, came out to the assistance of
 ' their Countrymen, and put the Islanders to
 ' flight. When they saw themselves overcome,

and no place to retreat to, (for the tide was in,
so that there was no passing the river Ramfa;
and the enemy was at their heels pursuing
them,) in a moanful manner they petitioned
Godred to spare their lives. Godred being
moved with compassion at the calamitous con-
dition of a people, among whom he had him-
self been brought up for some time, recall'd his
army, and hindred them from making any fur-
ther pursuit. The next day, Godred gave his
army their choice, whether they would divide
the lands of the Isle among them and live there,
or seize upon the wealth and substance of the
Country, and return home with it. But his
army was rather for spoiling the Island, and
enriching themselves with the goods of it; and
so for departing. However, Godred himself,
with some of the Islanders that stayed with him,
settled in the south part of the Island, & grant-
ed the north part to the remains of the natives,
upon condition that none of them should ever
presume to claim any part of it as their inheri-
tance. Hence, to this very day, the whole Is-
land is the King's, and all the rents that arise
in it belong to him. Godred then reduced
Dublin, and a great part of Laynestir. As for
the Scots, he brought them to such subjection,
that if any of them built a ship or a boat, they

durst not drive above 3 nails in it. He reigned sixteen years, and died in the Island call'd Yle, leaving three sons, Lagman, Harald, & Olave. Lagman being eldest, seised upon the Kingdom, and reigned seven years. His brother Harald continued a long time in rebellion against him; but being at last taken, he had his privy members cut off, and his eyes put out. Afterwards Lagman grew so concerned for blinding his brother, that he renounced the Kingdom; and with the sign of the cross went in pilgrimage to Jerusalem, where he died

1089. As soon as the Nobility of the Island received the news of Lagman's death, they dispatched their Ambassadors to Murecard O'Brien King of Ireland, desiring that he would send them some diligent man or other of Royal extraction, to rule over them during the minority of Olave the son of Godred. The King readily consented, and sent one Dopnald the son of Tade, with orders and instructions to govern the Kingdom (though it belonged not to him) with modesty and tenderness. But as soon as he was advanced to the throne, without any farther heed to the commands his Lord had laid on him, he grew grievous to the people by his tyranny, and reigned three years with great cruelty and outrage. The Nobility

' being then no longer able to endure that oppression, conspir'd, rose up in arms, and banish'd him. Upon this, he fled into Ireland, and never returned.

' 1097. One Ingemund was sent by the King of Norway, to get the sovereignty of these Islands. When he came to the Isle of Leod, he sent to all the great men of the Islands, commanding them to assemble and make him King. In the mean while, he with his companions, did nothing but spoil, feast, ravish women and virgins; giving himself wholly up to such beastly lusts and pleasures. As soon as the great men of the Islands were acquainted with these proceedings, being now assembled to make him King, they were so enraged that they went in all haste towards him, and coming to his house in the night, set it on fire; so that he and his whole retinue were either destroyed by the fire, or by the sword. An. 1098. was founded the Abbey of S. Mary at Cistercium. Antioch was taken by the Christians; and a Comet appeared

' The same year was fought a battle between the Inhabitants of the Isle of Man at Santwat; those of the north-side got the victory. In this engagement were slain Earl Other, and Macmaras, the two Leaders.

' This same year, Magnus, King of Norway,
 ' the son of Olave, son of Harald Harfager, out
 ' of curiosity to know whether the Corps of St.
 ' Olave, King and Martyr, remained uncorrupt,
 ' commanded his tomb to be open'd. This or-
 ' der being opposed by the Bishop & his Clergy,
 ' the King himself came in person, and had it
 ' open'd by force. And when with the sense of
 ' his own eyes and hands he found the body
 ' found and unputrified, he fell into great fear,
 ' and went away in all haste. The next night,
 ' the King and Martyr appear'd to him, saying,
 ' Take thy choice of these two offers, either to
 ' lose thy life and Kingdom within 30 days, or
 ' to leave Norway, and be content never to see
 ' it more. As soon as the King awaken'd, he
 ' called his Nobles and the Elders of his people
 ' together, and told them what vision he had
 ' seen. Being frightened at it, they gave him this
 ' Council, That with all haste he should depart
 ' from Norway. Upon this, he prepared a fleet
 ' of an hundred and sixty ships, and set sail for
 ' the Orcades, which he soon conquer'd; from
 ' whence he went on with success and victori-
 ' through all the Islands, till he came to that of
 ' Man. Being landed there, he went to St.
 ' Patrick's Isle, to see the place, where the Is-
 ' landers had been engaged a little before; for

many of the dead bodies were as yet unburied.
This fine Island pleased him so well, that he
resolved to seat himself in it; and to that end
built forts and strong holds, which retain his
name to this day. Those of Gallway were so
much over-awed by him, that at his order
they cut down wood, and brought it to the
shore for him to make his Bulworks withal.
Next, he sailed to Monia, an Island of Wales,
where he found two Hughes, both Earls; one
of them he slew, the other he put to flight, and
conquer'd the Island. The Welsh men made
many Presents to him; so, taking his leave of
them, he returned to Man. To Muricard,
King of Ireland, he sent his shoes, command-
ing him to carry them upon his shoulders thro'
the middle of his house on Christmas day in
sight of his Messengers, to signifie his subjec-
tion to King Magnus. The Irish received this
news with great wrath and indignation. But
the King more advisedly said, That he would
not only carry, but also eat his shoes, rather
than King Magnus should destroy one Province
in Ireland. So he complied with this order,
and honourably entertained his Messengers;
and sent them back with many presents to him,
and made a league with him. Being returned,
they gave their Master an account of Ireland;

' describing its situation, and pleasantness, its
 ' fruitfulness, and the excellence of its air.
 ' Magnus hearing this, begun to turn his
 ' thoughts wholly upon the Conquest of that
 ' Country. For this end, he gave orders to fit
 ' out a good fleet; and went before with sixteen
 ' ships, to take a view of the Country; but as
 ' he unwarily left his ship, he was beset by the
 ' Irish, and cut off, with most of those that were
 ' with him. His body was buried near St. Pa-
 ' trick's Church in Down. He reigned six years.
 ' After his death, the Noblemen of the Island
 ' sent for Olave, the son of Godred, surnamed
 ' Crovan, who lived in the Court of Henry King
 ' of England, the son of King William.

' 1102. Olave, the son of Godred Crovan, be-
 ' gan his reign; which continued 40 years.
 ' He was a peaceable Prince, and in league with
 ' all the Kings of Ireland and Scotland. His
 ' wife was Africa, the daughter of Fergus of
 ' Galloway; by whom he had Godred. By his
 ' Concubines he had also Reginald, Lagman, &
 ' Harald, besides many daughters; one of whom
 ' was married to Summerled, Prince of * He-
 ' rergaidel, to whom the Kingdom of the Isles
 ' owe their ruine. By her he had four sons,
 ' Dungall, Reginald, Engus, and Olave.

* Argile.

1133. The Sun was so eclipsed on the fourth of the Nones of August, that the day was as dark as the night.

1134. Olave gave to Yvo, Abbot of Furnes, part of his lands in Man, towards building an Abbey in a place called Ruffin. He enriched the estate of the Church with Islands and Revenues, and endowed it with great liberties.

1142. Godred, the son of Olave, sailed over to the King of Norway, who was called Hinge, and did him homage: he staid there some time, and was honourably received. This same year, the three sons of Harald, the brother of Olave, who were bred at Dublin, came to Man, with a great multitude of men, and such as the King had banished, demanding one half of the Kingdom of the Isles for their share. The King being willing to please them, answered, That he would take the advice of a Council about it. Having agreed upon the time and place for their meeting, these base villains began to plot against the King's life. At the day appointed, both Parties met at the haven called Ramfa, and sat by ranks in order; the King with his Council on the one side, and they & their gang on the other, with Reginald, who was to dispatch him, in the middle, talking apart with one of the Noblemen. When the King called

' him, he turned himself as though he would
 ' salute him; but lifting his ax, he struck at
 ' him, and cut off his head at one blow. As
 ' soon as they had executed this villainous de-
 ' sign, they divided the land among them; and
 ' after some few days spent in getting a fleet to-
 ' gether, they set sail for Gallway, intending
 ' to make a Conquest of it. But the people be-
 ' ing rais'd to receive them, fell upon them with
 ' great violence. Upon this, they soon fled back
 ' to Man in disorder; where they either kill'd
 ' or banish'd all the Gallway men they could
 ' meet with.

' 1143. Godred, Olave's son, returning from
 ' Norway, was created King of Man. To re-
 ' venge the death of his father, he made two of
 ' Harold's sons have their eyes pull'd out, and
 ' the third be put to death.

' 1144. Godred, began his reign, and reign'd
 ' thirty years. In the third year of it, the people
 ' of Dublin sent for him, and created him King
 ' of Dublin. Murecard King of Ireland, rais'd
 ' war against him, and as he lay encamped be-
 ' fore the City called Coridelis, sent his half
 ' brother Osibel, by the mother's side, with three
 ' thousand horse to Dublin, who was by Godred
 ' and the Dublinians slain, and his army routed.
 ' After this he returned to Man, and began to

tyrannize, depriving some of his Nobles of their estates; one of them called Thorfin, the son of Oter, mightier than the rest, went to Sumerled, and made Dubgall his son, King of the Isles, whereof he reduced many for him Godred hearing of these proceedings by one Paul, set out a good navy, and steered towards Sumerled, who was advancing against him with a fleet of eighty sail. So in the year 1156 they came to an engagement in the night, before the feast of Epiphany; and after great slaughters on both sides, concluded a peace the next day, agreeing to divide the Kingdom of the Isles between them: from which time it hath continued two several Kingdoms to this day. So that from the moment wherein Sumerled's sons had to do with the Kingdom of the Isles, we may date its downfall and overthrow.

1158. Sumerled came to Man with a fleet of fifty three sail, put Godred to flight, and spoiled the Island; upon which Godred sailed over to Norway for aid against Sumerled.

1164, Sumerled set out a fleet of one hundred and sixty ships, and arrived with them at Rhintrin, intending to conquer all Scotland, But by the just judgment of God, he was killed and vanquished, together with his son and a vast multitude, by a very few.

‘ The same year also a battle was fought at
 ‘ Ramfa, between Reginald, Godred’s brother,
 ‘ and the people of Man; wherein those of
 ‘ Man were put to flight by the treachery of a
 ‘ certain Earl.

‘ Now also Reginald began his reign; which
 ‘ had not continued four days, till Godred, his
 ‘ brother set upon him with a great army from
 ‘ Norway, and having taken him, put out his
 ‘ eyes, and cut off his privy parts. The same
 ‘ year dy’d Malcolm King of Scotland, and was
 ‘ succeeded by his brother William.

‘ 1166. In August there appeared two Comets
 ‘ before sun-rise; the one in the south, and the
 ‘ other in the north.

‘ 1171. Richard Earl of Pembroke sailed over
 ‘ into Ireland, and subdued Dublin, and a great
 ‘ part of that Country.

‘ 1176. John Curcy conquered Ulster. and
 ‘ Vivian the Pope’s Legate came into Man, and
 ‘ made King Godred be lawfully married to his
 ‘ wife Phingola, daughter to Mac-Lotlen, son
 ‘ of Murkartac, King of Ireland, the mother of
 ‘ Olave then three years old. They were mar-
 ‘ ried by Sylvan the Abbot, to whom Godred
 ‘ the very same day gave a piece of land at Mi-
 ‘ riscoge, where he built a Monastery; but this
 ‘ together with the Monks, was at last made
 ‘ over to the Abbey of Ruffin.

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'1172. Reginald, the son of Eac-Marcad, one of the blood royal, coming into Man, in the King's absence, with a great body of men, presently put to flight certain Centinels that guarded the Coast, and slew about thirty of them; but the Inhabitants being raised fell upon him, and the same day cut him off with most of his party.

'1183. O Fogolt was Sheriff of Man.

'1185. There happened an Eclipse of the sun on St. Philip and Jacob's day.

'1187. On the fourth of the Ides of November, Godred (King of the Isles) departed this life; and the Summer following his body was convey'd to the Isle of Hy. He left three sons, Reginald, Olave, and Yvar. In his life time, he made Olave his heir; being the only legitimate son he had. Yet the people (Olave being scarce ten years old) sent for Reginald out of the Isles, and made him King.

'1188. Reginald, the son of Godred, began his reign over the Islands; and Murchard, a man of great interest in all the Isles, was slain.

'1192. A battle was fought between Reginald and Engus, the sons of Sumerled; wherein Engus got the victory.

'The same year the Abbey of Ruffin was translated to Dufglas; yet the Monks about four years after returned to Ruffin.

‘ 1203. Michael, Bishop of the Isles, died at
‘ Fontans, and was succeeded by Nicholas.

‘ 1204. Hugh Lacy brought an army into Ul-
‘ ster, fought John Curcy, took him prisoner,
‘ and conquered Ulster. Afterwards he set John
‘ at liberty; who thereupon came to King Re-
‘ ginald, and was honourably received, as being
‘ his son-in-law; for Africa, Godred’s daughter,
‘ that founded the Abbey of St. Mary de Jugo
‘ Domini, and was therein married, was John
‘ de Curcy’s wife.

‘ 1205. John Curcy, and Reginald King of the
‘ Isles, entered Ulster with an hundred ships, in
‘ the haven call’d Stranford, and laid siege to
‘ Rath Castle. But Walter de Lacy brought an
‘ army, and put them to flight. After that,
‘ Curcy could never recover his lands.

‘ 1210. Engus, the son of Sumerled, was slain,
‘ with three sons.

‘ John, King of England, arrived at Ireland
‘ with a fleet of 500 ships, and conquered it:
‘ sending a certain Earl, called Falco, to Man;
‘ who wasted the whole Country in a fortnight’s
‘ time, and taking hostages, returned home.
‘ King Reginald and his Nobles were not in
‘ Man at that time.

‘ 1217. Died Nicholas, Bishop of the Isles,
‘ and was buried in Ulster, in the house of Ben-
‘ chor; and was succeeded by Reginald.

I would with the Reader's leave, add something farther, concerning the two brothers Olave and Reginald.

REGINALD gave to his brother Olave the Isle of Lodhus; which is counted larger than any of the other Islands, but thinly peopled, because it is mountainous and stony, and almost unfit for tillage in all parts. The Inhabitants live generally by hunting and fishing. Olave thereupon went to take possession of this Island, and dwelt there in a poor condition. But finding it too little to maintain him and his army, he went boldly to his brother, Reginald, who then lived in the Islands, and addressed himself thus to him. My brother, my Sovereign; You know very well, that the Kingdom of the Isles was mine by right of inheritance; but since God hath made you King over it, I will not envy your happiness nor grudge to see the crown upon your head. I only beg of you so much land in these Islands, as may honourably maintain me: for I am not able to live upon the Island Lodhus, which

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' you gave him. Reginald hearing this told his
 ' brother he would take the advice of he Council
 ' upon it; and the day after, when Olave was
 ' called in to speak with, he was apprehended
 ' by Reginald's order, and carried to William
 ' King of Scotland, that he might be there put in
 ' prison; where he continued in chains for al-
 ' most seven years. For in seventh year died
 ' William King of Scotland, and was succeeded
 ' by his son Alexander; but before his death,
 ' he commanded that all prisoners whatsoever
 ' should be set at liberty. Olave being thus freed,
 ' came to Man, and soon after, accompanied
 ' with no small train of Nobility, went to St.
 ' James. His brother Reginald made him now
 ' marry the daughter of a Nobleman of Kentyre,
 ' his own wife's sister, named Lavon, and gave
 ' him Lodhus to enjoy again. But within some
 ' few days after, Reginald, Bishop of the Isles,
 ' called a Synod, and divorced Olave, the son
 ' of Godred, and Lavon his wife, as being the
 ' Cousin german of his former wife. After-
 ' wards Olave, married Scristina, the daughter
 ' of Ferkar Earl of Rosse.

' Reginald's wife, Queen of the Islands was
 ' so troubled at this news, that she sent letters
 ' in the name of her husband King Reginald,
 ' to her son Godred, in the Island Sky, com-

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manding him to kill Olave. As Godred was contriving to execute this order, and going to Lodhus for that end, Olave got off in a little cock-boat, and fled to his father-in-law, the Earl of Rosse, afore said, while Godred in the mean time wasted the Island. At the same time, Pol the son of Boke, Sheriff of Sky, a man of great interest in all the Islands, fled likewise (having refused to comply with Godred) and lived in the Earl of Ross's house with Olave. Making a league with Olave, they went together in one vessel to Sky. At last, they understood by their Spies, how he lay, unapprehensive and negligent, with a very few men, in a certain Island called St. Columbs. So he gathered his friends and companions together, and with such volunteers as would go with him, set sail in the middle of the night with five ships, drawn together from the opposite shore, distant about two furlongs, and beset the Island. Godred and his companions next morning perceived themselves enclosed, were in great consternation. However, they took arms, and though to no purpose, manfully endeavoured to withstand them. For Olave and Pol, the afore said Sheriff, landed about nine a clock with their whole army, and cut off all they met with, those only excepted that

had taken sanctuary in the Churches. Godred
 was taken, and not only blinded, but gelded
 too. However, this was against Olave's will;
 for he would have saved him, but for Roke's
 son, the Sheriff aforesaid. For this was done
 in the year 1223. Olave having received pled-
 ges from the Noblemen of the Isles, set sail
 for Man the next summer with a fleet of thirty
 two ships, and arrived at Rognolfswath. At
 this very time Reginald and Olave divided the
 Kingdom of the Isles between them: but
 Reginald was to have Man over and above, to-
 gether with the title of King. Olave having
 now the second time furnished himself with
 provisions from the Isle of Man, returned with
 his company to his part of the Islands. Re-
 ginald the year following, taking Alan, Lord
 of Gallway along with him, went with the
 people of the Isle of Man to disleise his brother
 Olave of the land he had given him, and to
 reduce it under his own dominion. But the
 people of Man being unwilling to fight against
 Olave and the Islanders, by reason of a pe-
 culiar kindness between them, Reginald and
 Alan, Lord Gallway, were forced to return
 home without effecting any thing. A while
 after, Reginald pretending a journey to the
 Court of his sovereign Lord the King of Eng-

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land, raised an hundred marks in contribution from the Island of Man ; but went however to the Court of Alan, Lord of Gallway. During his stay there, he married his daughter to Alan's son. The people of Man received this news with such indignation, that they sent for Olave, and made him king.

1226. Olave recovered his inheritance, namely, the Kingdom of Man, and of the Isles, which his brother Reginald had governed for thirty eight years, and reigned quietly tw^o years.

1228. Olave, accompanied with all the Nobility, and the greatest part of the people of Man, sailed over to the Isles. A while after that, Alan, Lord of Gallway, Thomas Earl of Athol, & King Reginald, came into Man with a great army ; and there they wasted all the south part of the Island, spoiled the Churches, and put all the inhabitants they could meet with to death ; so that the whole was in a manner desolate. After Alan had thus ravaged the Country, he returned with his army, leaving his Bailiffs in Man to collect the tribute of the Country, and send it to him. King Olave coming upon them at unawares, soon put them to flight, and recovering his Kingdom. Whereupon, the people that had been dispersed and

scattered, began to get together again, and to live in their old homes with quietness and security.

The same year, King Reginald came in the dead of night in the winter time, with five sail of ships, and burnt all the ships that belonged either to his brother Olave, or the Nobility of Man, the Isle of S. Patrick,, and tarried forty days after in Ragnollwath, haven, desiring peace of his brother. During this abode, he won over all the inhabitants of the south part of Man; so that they swore they would lose their lives rather than he should not be restored to the half of the kingdom. Olave, on the other side, had drawn in those of the north part to adhere to him; and so upon the fourteenth of February, at a place called Tinguall, the two brothers came on an engagement, wherein Olave had the victory, and King Reginald was slain, but without the knowledge of Olave. About this time, certain Pirates arrived at the south part of Man, and wasted it. The Monks of Ruffin convey'd the Corps of King Reginald to the Abbey of S. Mary de Fournes; and there it was buried in a certain place which he himself had before chose for that purpose. Olave, after this, went to the King of Norway; but before his arrival, Haco King of

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Norway had appointed a certain Nobleman, called Husbac, the son of Owmund, to be King of the Sodorian Islands, and named him Haco. This Haco, accompanied with Olave, Godred Don, the son of Reginald, and many Norwegians, came to the Isles; but in taking a certain castle in the Isle of Both * he was killed with a stone, and buried in Iona.

1230. Olave came with Godred Don and the Norwegians to Man; and they divided the Kingdom. Olave was to have Man. Godred being gone to the Isles was slain in Lodhus. So Olave came to be sole King of the Isles.

1237. On the twelfth of the Calends of June, died Olave, the son of Godred, King of Man, in St. Patrick's Isle; and was buried in the Abbey of Ruffin. He reigned eleven years, two in the life time of his brother, and nine after.

His son Harald, then fourteen years old, succeeded him, and reigned twelve years. In the first year of his reign he went to the Isles, and made Loglen, his Kintman, Keeper of Man. In the autumn following, Harald sent three sons of Nell viz. Dufgald, Thorquel, and Molmore, and his friend Joseph to Man, to consider of affaires. Accordingly

28 C H R O N I C L E

• on the twenty fifth day, they met at Tingala
 • where, upon a quarrel that then happened be-
 • tween the sons of Nell, and Loglen, there
 • arose a fore fight on both sides, in which
 • Dufgald, Mormore, and the said Joseph lost
 • their lives. In the Spring following, King
 • Harald came to the Isle of Man, and Loglen
 • who fled into Wales with Godred, the son of
 • Olave, his pupil, was cast away with about
 • forty others.

• 1238. Gospatrick and Gilleferist, the son of
 • Mac-Kerthac, came from the King of Nor-
 • way into Man, and kept out Harald, convert-
 • ing the tributes of the Country to the service of
 • the King of Norway, because he refused to ap-
 • pear in person at the Court of that King.

• 1240. Gospatick died, and was buried in
 • the Abbey of Ruffin.

• 1239. Harald went to the King of Norway,
 • who after two years, confirmed to him, his
 • heirs and successors, under his Seal, all the
 • Islands that his Predecessors had enjoyed.

• 1242. Harald returned out of Norway, to
 • Man; was honourably received by the Inha-
 • bitants; and made peace with the Kings of
 • England and Scotland.

• 1247. Harald, as his father had been before
 • him, was Knighted by the King of England.

and returned home with many presents. The same year the King of Norway sent for him, and a match was made between Harald and his daughter. In the year 1249, as he was on his voyage home with her, accompanied with Laurence, the elect King of Man, and many of the Nobility and Gentry, he was cast away by a sudden storm near the coast of Radland.

1249. Reginald, the son of Olave, and brother to Harald, began his reign the day before the Nones of May, and on the thirtieth day thereof, was slain by one Yvar, a Knight, and his accomplices, in a meadow near Trinity Church, on the south side. His Corps were buried in the Church of S. Mary of Russin.

Alexander, King of Scots, prepared a great fleet about this time, intending to conquer the Isles; but a fever seized him in the Isle of Kerwaray, * whereof he died.

Harald, the son of Godred Don, assumed the title of King of the Islands, banished all the Noblemen that Harald, King Olave's son had preferred, and instead of them, recalled such as were fled from him.

1150. Harald, the son of Godred Don, upon letters mandatory from the King of Norway, and went to him, was imprisoned for his unjust usurpation. E

* on the Coast of Lorn.

‘ The same year, Magnus, son of Olave, and
 ‘ John, the son of Dugald, who named himself
 ‘ King, arrived at Roghalwaht ; but the people
 ‘ of Man taking it ill that Magnus had not that
 ‘ title, beat them off their coast, and many were
 ‘ cast away.

1252. Magnus, the son of Olave, came to
 ‘ Man, and was made King. The next year
 ‘ after, he went and took a voyage to the Court
 ‘ of Norway, and tarried their a year.

‘ 1254. Haco, King of Norway, made Mag-
 ‘ nus, the son of Olave, King of the Isles, con-
 ‘ firming them to him and his heirs, and expressly
 ‘ to his brother Harald.

‘ 1256. Magnus, King of Man, went into
 ‘ England, and there was Knighted by the King.

‘ 1257. The Church of S. Mary of Ruffin
 ‘ was consecrated by Richard of Sodore.

‘ 1260. Haco, King of Norway, came to Scot-
 ‘ land, and without effecting any thing, died
 ‘ in his return to Orkneys at Kirwas, and was
 ‘ buried at Bergh.

‘ 1265. This year died Magnus, the son of
 ‘ Olave, King of Man, & of the Islands at Ruffin
 ‘ castle ; and was buried in S. Mary’s Church
 ‘ there.

‘ 1266. The Kingdom of the Isles was translat-

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What follows, was written in a different, and later Character.

1270. On the seventh of October, Alexander the King of Scots's navy arrived at Roghalwath; and before sun-rise next morning, a battle was fought between the Inhabitants of Man and the Scots, who slew five hundred thirty five of the former; whence that of a certain Poet.

L. decies, X. ter, & penta duo cecidere.

Mannica gens de te, damna futura cave.

1313. Robert, King of Scots, besieged the castle of Ruffin, which was defended by Ding-dow Dowyll, and at last took it.

1316. Upon Ascension-day, Richard de Man-levile and his brothers, with others of the Irish Nobility, arrived at Ramaldwath, desiring supply of money and victuals, being stript of all by continual degradations. When the Commonalty denied it, they took the field in

two bodies against those of Man, advancing still
till they came to the side of Warthfell-hill, in
a field where John Mandevile was posted. Upon
engaging, they carried the victory, spoiled the
Isle and the Abbey of Ruffin, and after a whole
months ravagement, they returned home full
fraught with pillage.

The end of the Chronicle of the Kings of Man

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Norwegian account of OLAVE, the

BLACK KING of MAN, com-

posed in the Islandic language by Thor dr, a
writer of the 13th century.

From the Manuscript of FLATEY. 1229

IN Scotland there lived an Earl called Allan
the son of Rolland Earl of Galloway. He
was the most warlike hero of those times. He
had many ships, with numerous armies, and
plundered both in the Sudureys and Ireland,
and made great devastation wide through the
western lands.

Olave the son of Godred was then King
of Man, and held his principality gallantly a-

gainst the Earl, and with much trustiness † to King Haco. But the Sudureyan Kings, they which were of Somerled's family, were very untrue to king Haco. These Kings of the Sudureys were Dugal Scrag, and Duncan his brother the father of John who since was king. They were the sons of Dugal the son of Somerled. A person named Uspac had long been with the Birkebeins. It came out that he was the son of King Dugal, and brother to the other two.* A relation of theirs called Somerled was then also a King in the Sudureys.

MCCXXX. Towards the end of winter king Haco held a meeting † in his residence, at which meeting he gave Uspac the title of King; and he was called Uspac the Sudureian; therewith he gave him the name of Haco; the king then made it also clear that he intended giving him an army destined for the western seas in summer.

About spring Haco the king went north to Bergen, and when he came there, he ordered an

† Fidelity. § False. * in other Mss. hans brodir, i. e. his brother. † At Tunsberg.

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armament to be prepared, which should go with
Hspac to the western seas. To this expedition
Earl Skuli contributed some troops. Eleven
ships had they from Norway.

While these preparations were making, Olave
the Swarthy, King of Man, came from the Su-
toreys, in the western sea. He spoke of great
hostilities in the western Islands. He said that
he had fled from Man, because Earl Allan had
drawn together a great army and aimed at get-
ting the Manksmen into his hands. He repeat-
ed many strong expressions uttered against the
Norwegians by the Earl, who hinted, that the
sea was not more impracticable to Norway, than
from Norway to Scotland; and that the Nor-
wegian harbours were not inaccessible to such
as would plunder there. But this was only
said, and never done.

King Olave remained four nights in the
city before he proceeded westwards. King
Olave went in the ship with Paul Balka-son
to the Orkneys; and then Earl John gave
him a ship: it was called the Ox; and at
leaving the Orkneys they had twenty ships.

When Ottar Snækoll, Paul Balka, and Ungi
Paul-son heard this, then sailed they south-

wards before Sky, and found, in Westford, Thorkel Thormod-son. And they fought with him. And Thorkel fell there and two of his sons. But his son Thormed came off in this manner, he leap'd into a boat which floated there by its ship; and it, with him, was † wrecked on Scotland. After this, Ottar and Balka failed to meet with King Uspac.

When all the forces had come south to Ila found, the brothers King Uspac, Dugall and Duncan, were already there, and also the third chieftain, named Somerled, * their relation; and they had a great army. They bade the Norwegians to an entertainment and had strong wines. It was told the Norwegians, that all this was not § guileless; wherefore they would not go to the entertainment. On this each of the two Commanders drew his forces together; for they trusted not each other.

Duncan slept in the ship of his brother Uspac. † In a little time, the Norwegians

† i. e. was driven on shore * a brother of theirs, some copies. § i. e. without sinister intention. † unexpectedly.

made an onset upon the Sudureyans, and killed
 some, and many men with him. They got
 Dugal into their hands, and ** set him in fetters.
 Few of the Norwegians fell there. Uspac was
 not at this affair; and, when he was informed
 of it, he hastened away his Brother Duncan,
 but his Brother Dugal he took under his own
 protection.

The Norwegians now collected troops from
 the Islands, and they got together, in all, eighty
 ships, and then sailed south to the Mull of Kin-
 nair, and so in to Bute. And the Scots lay there
 in a castle, and a Steward of Scotland command-
 ed over them. The Norwegians sat down be-
 fore the Fortrefs, and gave a hard assault. But
 the Scotch fought well, and threw down upon
 them boiling pitch and lead. Many of the Nor-
 wegians fell, many also were wounded. They
 therefore * prepared over themselves a cover-
 ing of boards, and then hewed down the walls
 for the stone was soft, and the rampart fell with
 them; they cut it up from the foundations.
 That Master of the Lights, called Skagi Skitradi, †
 shot the Steward ‡ to death while he was

F

** put. * erected. † Young Gentlemen who
 held tapers in their hands while the Norwegian
 Monarchs were at Table ‡ dead

leaping upon the ramparts of the fortress. Three days did they fight with the Garrison before he won it. There took they much wealth, and a Scottish knight who § released himself for three hundred marks of refined silver. Of the Norwegians there fell Sweinung the Swarthy, and in all about three hundred men some of whom were Sadureyane. They here met a great storm, and lost three ships with the men, and all that was on board.

The Norwegians now heard that Earl Allan was south at the Nesses, and had drawn together an hundred & fifty ships intended against them. wherefore they sail'd northwards under Kintyre and lay there for some time, and made several descents. Uspac the King now ** caught a disorder, and lay a little while, and died, and was much lamented of his men. Upon this King Olave was made commander over all the armies; and going to the Merchant-Isles they remained there great part of the winter.

They next went south against the Mankmen, who assembled to oppose them, and who were led by a person named Thorkel the son of Niel

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But the Manksmen wou'd not fight against Olave; and thy* broke up their confederacy before Thorkel, and the Norwegians took him into their hands, and had him in fetters for some time. They laid as a tribute on the Manksmen, three English pennies for every cow, and also maintenance for the whole army through the winter.

Afterwards the Norwegians steered their course away from Man, tho' King Olave remained behind. They sailed north under Kintire, and there went on shore; but the Scotch came to meet them, and fought with them and * darting to and fro were irregular in the battle; and many fell on their side. And when the Norwegians came to their ships, then had the Scotch killed all the servants that were on land preparing victuals; and all the flesh-kettles were carried away. They next made many descents in Kintire, and proceeded thence north to the Orkney Islands.

* dispersed in the presence of Thorkel.

* i. e. alternately attacking and retiring, with incredible rapidity, occasioned great confusion in the Battle.

Soon after, most of the Norwegians sailed east to Norway, having, in this expedition to the western Isles, won great renown for their King. And when they came into his presence, he thanked them ** well for this their voyage; here ended the ††† acts of the Sudureyans.

** heartily. ††† transactions in the Sudureys.

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THE
NORWEGIAN ACCOUNT
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HACO'S EXPEDITION
AGAINST
SCOTLAND
A. D. MCCLXIII.

AT the time that King Haco ruled over Norway, Alexander, the son of William King of Scotland, was then King of Scotland. He was a great Prince, and very ambitious of the world's praise. He sent from Scotland in the Western sea, two Bishops to King Haco. At first they begged to know if King Haco would give up those territories in the Hebrides, which King

Magnus Bare-Foot had unjustly wrested from Malcolm Predecessor to the Scottish king. The King said that Magnus had settled with Malcolm what districts the Norwegians should have in Scotland, or in the Islands which lay near it. He affirmed, however, that the King of Scotland had no sovereignty in the Hebrides at the time when King Magnus won them from King Godfred; and also that King Magnus only asserted his Birth-right. The commissioners then said that the King of Scotland was willing to purchase all the Hebrides from king Haco, and entreated him, to value them in fine silver. The king replied, he knew no such urgent want of money as would oblige him to sell his inheritance. With that answer the messengers departed. From this cause some misunderstanding arose between the Kings. The Scottish Monarch, however, frequently renewed the negotiation, and sent many proposals; but the Scots received no other explanation than what is here related.

MCCXLIX. Alexander king of Scotland wished much for possession of the Hebrides. He had often sent to Norway to redeem them with money, and he did so this summer. But when he could not purchase these territories of king

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Haco, he took other measures in hand. which were not princely. Collecting forces throughout all Scotland, he prepared for a voyage to the Hebrides, and determined to subdue those islands under his dominion. He made it manifest before his subjects, that he would not desist till he had set his standard east on the cliffs of Thurso, and had reduced under himself all the provinces which the Norwegian Monarch possessed to the westward of the German ocean.

King Alexander sent word to John king of the Isles that he wished to see him. But king John would not meet the Scottish king till four Earls of Scotland had pledged their honour, that he should return in safety, whether any agreement was made or not. When the kings met, the Scottish Monarch besought king John, that he would give up Kiamaburgh into his power, and three other Castles which he held of king Haco; as also the other lands which king Haco had conferred upon him. The Scottish king added, that, if he would join him in good earnest, he would reward him with many greater estates in Scotland, together with his confidence and favour. All king John's Relations and Friends pressed him to assent. But he behaved well, and uprightly; and declared that he would not

break his oath to king Haco. On this king John went away, and stopped not at any place till he came quite north to Lewes.

King Alexander, then lying in Kiararey-Sound † dreamed a dream, and thought three men came to him. He thought one of them was in royal robes, but very stern, ruddy in countenance, somewhat thick, and of middling size. Another seemed of a slender make, but active, and of all men the most engaging, and majestic. The third again, was of very great stature, but his features were distorted, and of all the rest he was the most unsightly. They addressed their speech to the King, and enquired whether he meant to invade the Hebrides. Alexander thought he answered that he certainly proposed to subject to the Islands. The Genius of the vision bade him go back; and told him no other measure would turn out to his advantage. The King related his dream; and many advised him to return. But the king would not; and a little after he was seized with a disorder, & died. The Scottish Army then broke up; and they removed the king's body to Scotland. The Hebridians say that the men, whom

† near the Isle of Mull.

The king saw in his sleep were St. Olave king of Norway, St. Magnus Earl of Orkney, and St. Columba.

The Scotch took for their king Alexander the son of king Alexander. He afterwards married the daughter of Henry king of England, and became a great prince.

MCCLXI. In the Summer there came, from Scotland in the west, an Archdeacon, and a knight called Miffel, as Envoys from Alexander king of Scotland. They shewed more fair language than truth, as seemed to king Haco. They set out so abruptly on their return, that none wist till they were under sail. The king dispatched Briniolf Johnson in pursuit, and he detained them with him. The king declared that they should remain that winter in Norway, because they had gone away without taking leave, contrary to what other Envoys did.

MCCLXII. In summer there came letters from the Kings of the Hebrides in the Western seas. They complain'd much of the hostilities which the Earl of Ross, Kiarnach, the son of Mac-camal, and other Scots committed in the

Hebrides when they went on to Sky They burned villages, and churches, and they killed great numbers both of men and women. They affirmed, that the Scotch had even taken the small children and raising them on the points of their spears shook them till they fell down to their hands, when they threw them away lifeless on the ground. † They said also, that the Scottish king purposed to subdue all the Hebrides, if life was granted him.

When king Haco heard these tidings they gave him much uneasiness, and he laid the case before his council. What ever objections were made, the resolution was then taken, that king Haco should in winter, about Christmas, issue an edict thro' all Norway, and order out what troops and provisions he thought his dominions

† The publisher cannot help observing, that nothing but that fidelity he owes the Public; by which he is bound to Exhibit from the Press the relation exactly as he found it, could have induced him to Publish the above reflections; they are generally dictated by prejudice of one kind or other.

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MCCLXIII. Near the middle of Lent king Haco travelled from Drontheim to Orkadal, thence east through the mountains to Bahus, and to eastwards to Elfar to see Earl Birger, according to an appointment that they should meet at Liodhus † in Easter week. But when king Haco came to Liodhus the Earl was already gone away, and so the King returned north to Bahus.

King Haco arrived at Bergen on the day of the invention of the Cross. He remained there during the spring, and proceeded in his preparations with great diligence. Prince Magnus, having given the necessary Directions thro' Rygiafulke concerning the expedition and the equipment of the fleet, went to join king Haco. After that, a great number of Barons, and officers, and vassals, and a vast many soldiers flocked in daily to the Capital.

King Haco held a general council near Bergen at Backa. There the numerous host was assembled together. The king then declared, concerning the expedition, that this whole

† A town in Sweden demolished A. D. 1268

army was intended against Scotland in the western seas, and to revenge the inroads which the Scotch had made into his dominions. Prince Magnus begged to command this expedition instead of king Haco, who should remain at home. He thanked him in many courteous words; but he observed, that he himself was older, and had longer acquaintance with the western lands, and that, therefore, he himself wou'd go this voyage. He, however, gave Prince Magnus full power to rule the Nation in his absence. At this Council he settled many regulations respecting the internal government of the country; and he granted to the yeomanry, that, while he was away, no Sheriff should decide on any cause, unless such cause was of the greatest necessity.

During this voyage king Haco had that great vessel which he had caused to be constructed at Bergen. It was built entirely of oak, and contained twenty seven banks of oars. It was ornamented with heads and necks of dragons beautifully overlaid with Gold. He had also many other well-appointed ships.

In the spring king Haco sent John-Langliffe and Henry Scot west to the Orkneys, to pro-

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are pilots for Shetland. From thence John sailed to the Hebrides, and told king Dugal that he might expect an army from the East. It had been rumoured that the Scots wou'd plunder in the Islands that summer. King Dugal, therefore, spread abroad a report that forty ships were coming from Norway. And by this means he prevented the Scotch from making a descent.

Some time before the king himself was ready he sent eight ships to the westward. The Captains of these were Ronald Urka, Erling varson, Andrew Nicolson, and Halvard Red. They continued some days out in the road as the wind did not favour them:

When the king had prepared his ship he removed all his army from the capital to Eidsvags; afterwards he himself returned to the city where he remained some nights, and then set out for Herlover. Here all the troops both from the Northern and Southern districts assembled.

King Haco muster'd all his Force at Herlover. It was a mighty, and splendid armament. The King had many large and well-appointed ships.

Some nights after king Haco had arrived at Herlover, Ronald and Erling, sailed out of the

bay with their squadron. Ronald was separated from the rest at sea, and made for the Orkneys with some of the ships. But, Erling, and Andrew, and Halward steered south before Sherland and so to the west of Tharey-Fiord; and they saw no land, except Sulna-stapa § west of the Orkenys. Afterwards they sailed into Scotland under Dyrnests. † They went up into the country and destroyed a castle, but the garrison had fled. They burned more than twenty hamlets. Next they steered for the Hebrides, and found there Magnus King of Man.

Three nights before the Selian vigils King Haco set sail for the German sea with all his fleet. He had now been King of Norway six and forty winters. He had a favourable breeze; the weather was fair and the armament beautiful to behold.

King Haco had a company, particularly selected for his own ship. There were on the quarter-deck Thorliffe abbot of Holm, Sigurd Askatinn, four priests chaplains to the king, Andrew of Thissisey, Aslac Guss the king's master of the horse, Andrew Hawardson, Guthorm Gillason and Thorstein his brother, Eirek Scot Gautson, with many others. There

§ perhaps Staffa † Durnish.

were on the main deck Aflæk Dagson, Steinar Merka, Klomit Langi. Andrew Gums, Elrek Dugallson, the father of king Dugal, Einar Lang-bard, Arnbiorn Suela, Sigvat Bodvarlson, Halkuld Oddson, John Hloglif, Arni Stinkar. On the fore-deck there were, Sigurd the son of Ivar Rofu, Ivar Helgason, of Lofloc, Erlend Scolbein, Dag of Southeim, Briniolf Johnson, Gudleik Saeis, and most of the kings Chamberlains, with Andrew Plytt the kings Treasurer. There were in the fore castle, Eirek Skifa Thorfin Sigvald, Kari Endridson, Gudbrand Johnson and many of the Cup-bearers. In generall, there were four men on every half rowers seat. With king Haco, Magnus Earl of Orkeny left Bergen; and the king gave him a good galley. These Barons were also with the king, Briniolf Johnson, Fin Gautson, Reling Alfson, Erlend Red, Bard of Hestby, Eilif of Naustadale, Andrew Pott, Ogmund Krekidants. Erling Ivarson, John Drotning-Gaut of Meli, and Nicolas of Giska were behind with Prince Magnus at Bergen, as were several other sea officers who had not been ready. Many approved commanders were however with king Haco, and of whom mention had been made.

King Haco having got a gentle breeze, was two nights at sea, when he reached that Harbour of Shetland called Breydeyar-sound, with a great part of his navy.

King Haco remained in Bredeyar-sound near half a month, and from thence sailed to the Orkneys, and continued some time at Elidarwic which is near Kirkwall. There he declared before his men, that he would divide his forces, and send one part south to the Firth of Forth to plunder. But he himself wished to remain in the Orkneys with the largest ships and greater part of the army. The vassals and retainers, however spoke against this scheme, and made it evident that they would go nowhere unless with the king himself; so this proposed expedition was dropt.

After St. Olaves wake king Haco leaving Elidarwic sailed south before the Mull of Ronaldsha with all his navy. At this place King Haco was joined by Ronald from the Orkneys with the ships that had followed him. King Haco next led the whole armament into Ronaldsvo, and lay there for some space. He then sent men over to Cathness to levy contribution

on the one hand proposed peace if the inhabitants wou'd yield, but otherwise heavy punishment. The Catholians submitted to the tax, and king Haco appointed collectors to receive it.

While king Haco lay in Ronaldsvo a great darkness drew over the sun, so that only a little light was bright round the sun, and it continued so for some hours.

On the day of St. Laurence's wake king Haco, having ordered the Orkney-men to follow him as soon as they were ready, sailed over Pentland-firth. He was here informed that John Drotning, and Kolbein Aflacson, with the ships expected from the east, but which had been accidentally detained, were arrived in the islands. King Haco then sailed with all his forces to a haven that is called Asteifarvic, from that to Lewes, so on to Rona, and, from thence to that place, in Sky sound, which is called Gallach-Stane. Here he was joined by Magnus king of Man, and the relations Erling Ivarson, Andrew Nicolson, and Halward. He next proceeded to the Sound of Mull, and then to Kiararey † where king Dugal and the other

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† on the coast of Lorn

Hebridians were assembled with all their troops. King Haco had now above an hundred vessels, for the most part large and all of them well provided both with men and arms.

While king Haco remained at Kiararey he divided his forces, and sent fifty ships south to the Mull of Kintire to plunder. The captains appointed over them were king Dugal, Magnus king of Man, Bryniolf Johson, Ronald Urka, Andrew Pott, Ogmund Krakidants, Vigleik Priestson. He also ordered five ships for But, these were under the command of Erlend Red, Andrew Nicolson, Simon Stutt, Ivar Ung, Byfari, and Gutthorm the Hebridian, each in his own ship.

King Haco sailed afterwards south to Gudney † before Kintire where he anchored. There king John met him ; he came in the ship with Bishop Thorgil. King Haco designed to follow his banner as he should do. But king John excused himself. he said he had sworn an oath to the Scottish king, and held of him more lands than of the Norwegian Monarch ; he therefore entreated king Haco to dispose of all those estates

† or Giga.

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which he had conferred upon him. King Haco kept him with him for some time, and endeavoured to incline his mind to fidelity. Many laid imputations to his charge. King Haco indeed had before received bad accounts of him from the Hebrides; for John Langlife-son came to the king, while he was sailing west from Shetland, and told him the news that John king of the Hebrides, breaking his faith, had turned to the Scottish Monarch. King Haco, however, would not believe this till he had found it so.

During king Haco's stay at Gudey an Abbot of a monastery of Greyfriars waited on him, begging protection for their dwelling, and Holy Church: and this the king granted them in writing.

Friar Simon had lain sick for some time. He died at Gudey. His corpse was afterwards carried up to Kintyre where the Greyfriars interred him in their Church. They spread a fringed pall over his grave, and called him a Saint.

About this time men came from king Dugal, and said that the Lords of Kintyre, Margad. & Angus (also proprietor of Ha) were willing to

surrender the lands which they held to king Haco ; and order their dependants to join him. The king answered, that he would not lay waste the peninsula, if they submitted on the following day before noon ; if not he gave them to understand he would ravage it. The messengers returned. Next morning Margad came and gave up every thing into the kings power ; a little after Angus arrived and likewise did the same. The king then said, that, if they would enter into articles with him, he would reconcile them with the king of Scotland. On this they took an oath to king Haco, and delivered hostages. The king laid a fine of a thousand head of cattle on their estates. Angus yielded up Ila also to the king ; and the king returned Ila to Angus, upon the same terms that the other Barons in the Hebrides enjoyed their lands.

South in Kintire there was a castle held by a Knight who came to wait on king Haco, and surrendered the fortress into his hands. The king conferred this castle upon Guthorm Backa-kolf.

We must next speak of that detachment of the army, which the king had sent towards the Mull of Kintire to pillage. The Norwegians

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made a descent there. They burnt the hamlets that were before them, and took all the effects that they could find. They killed some of the inhabitants; the rest fled where they could. But, when they were proceeding to the greater villages, letters arrived from king Haco forbidding them to plunder. Afterwards they sailed for Gudey to rejoin king Haco.

The wind was not favourable, king Haco, however, made Andrew Pont go before him with to Bute, with some small vessels, to join those he had already sent thither. News was soon received that they had won a fortress, the garrison of which had capitulated, and accepted terms of the Norwegians. There was with the Norwegians a sea-officer, called Rudri. He considered Bute as his Birth-right; and because he had not received the Island of the Scotch he committed many ravages, and killed many people; and for that he was outlawed by the Scottish king. He came to king Haco, and took the oaths to him; and with two of his brothers became his subjects. As soon as the garrison, after having delivered up the stronghold, were gone away from the Norwegians, Rudri killed nine of them, because he thought

that he owed them no good will. Afterwards king Haco reduced the Island, as is here said.

The wide-extended Bute was won from the forlorn wearers of rings & by the renowned and invincible troops of the promoter of conquest, — they wielded the two-edged sword — the foes of our Ruler dropt, and the Raven from his fields of slaughter, winned his flight for the Hebrides.

i. e. Scotch.

The Norwegians who had been in Bute went to Scotland, where they burned many houses and several towns. Rudri proceeding a great way did all the mischief that he could.

This is very descriptive, of the manner of the Highlanders at this present day, as we observe the lower rank of them both men, & women, are to a degree fond of such ornaments

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While king Haco was in the Hebrides, deputies came to him from Ireland intimating that the Irish Oostmen would submit to his power, he would secure them from the encroachments of the English, who possessed all the best towns along the sea-coast. King Haco accordingly sent Sigurd the Hebridian, with some fast sailing vessels, to examine on what terms the Irish invited him thither.

After this king Haco sailed south before the full of Kintire with all his fleet, and anchored for some time in Arran-sound. Then, there came often Predicant, or Barefooted friars, from the Scottish Monarch to king Haco, to sound him about a pacification between the two Sovereigns. At this juncture also king Haco set king John at liberty; and bidding him go in peace, where ever he would, gave him several rich presents. He promised king Haco, to do every thing in his power to effectuate a peace between him and the Scottish king; and that he would immediately return to king Haco, whenever he desired him. Soon after king Haco sent Gilbert Bishop of Hamar, Henry Bishop of Orkeny, Andrew Nicolson, Andrew Plytt, and Paul Soor envoys to treat about a peace with the king of Scotland. They went to the Scottish. Mo-

narch, and laid before him their overtures. He received them honourably; seemed inclined to accommodation and said that such terms of accommodation as he would consent to, would be transmitted to king Haco. The commissioners departed; and the Scottish envoys arrived soon after. King Haco had ordered that all the Islands to the west of Scotland, which he called his, should be wrote down. The king of Scotland again had named all such as he would not relinquish. These were Bute, Arran, and the two Cumbras; as to other matters there was very little dispute between the sovereigns, but however no agreement took place. The Scots purposely declined any accommodation, because summer was drawing to a period, and the weather was becoming bad. Finding this Haco failed in, with all his forces, past the Cumbras.

Afterwards an interview in Scotland was agreed upon for a reconciliation. King Haco sent thither a Bishop and a Baron; and to meet them came some Knights & Monks. They spoke much about an accommodation, but, at last things ended the same way as formerly. Towards the conclusion of the day a greater number of Scots convened from the country than

the Norwegians thought were to be trusted. They therefore, retiring to the ships, waited on the king, and told him their opinion. The generality advised him to declare that the truce was now ended, and to give orders to plunder, as the army was very short of Provisions.

King Haco, however, sent one of his courtiers, called Kolbein Rich, to the Scottish Monarch. He carried with the Articles of pacification which the Scottish king had sent to king Haco, and was commanded to bring back the proposals which king Haco had sent to the king of Scotland. He was besides to propose that the Sovereigns should meet with all their forces and treat about a peace. If that, by the grace of God, took place, it was very well; but if it should turn out otherwise, then Haco proposed to the king of Scotland to fight with their whole armies, and let him conquer whom God pleased. The Scottish Monarch seem'd not unwilling to fight, but he gave no explanation. Kolbein, therefore, returned back to his Sovereign, who appeared but little satisfied with his message.

The truce was now declared to be totally ended. The king accordingly sent sixty ships in

to Loch-long. They were commanded by Magnus king of Man, king Dugal and Allan his brother, Angus, Margad, Vigleik Priestffon and Ivar Holm. When they came into the inlet they took their boats, and drew them up to a great lake which is called Loch-lomond. On the far side round the lake was an Earldom called Lennox. In this lake there were a great many Islands well inhabited these Islands the Norwegians wasted with fire. They also burned all the buildings about the lake, and made great devastation.

Allan, the brother of king Dugal, marched far over into Scotland, and killed great numbers of the Inhabitants. He took many hundred head of cattle, and made vast havock.

Afterwards the Norwegians retired to their fleet, and met with so violent a storm that dashed in pieces about ten of their ships in Loch-long. At this time Ivar Holm was seized with an acute disease which occasioned his death.

King Haco, as was before written, still lay in the Hebrides. Michaelmas fell on a Saturday; and, on the Monday night after, there came a great tempest with hail-stones and rain. The watch on the fore-castle of the kings ship

called out, and said that a transport vessel was driving full against their cable. The sailors immediately sprung upon deck; but the rigging of the transport getting entangled in the king's ships, carried away its beak. The transport then fell aboard in such a manner, that the anchor grappled the cordage of the king's ship, which then began to drag its anchors. The king, therefore, ordered the cable of the transport to be cut which was accordingly done. It then drove out to sea, but the king's ship remained steadfast, and continued * uncovered till day-light. On the morning, the transport floated with the tide, and, together with a galley, was cast ashore in Scotland. The wind gradually increasing, the crew of the king's ship got more cables, & dropped a fifth anchor. The king himself, then took to his long-boat, and rowing out to the islands, ordered mass to be sung. The fleet in the mean time was forced up the channel, and the tempest that day was so furious, that some vessels cut away their masts, others ran aground. The king's ship also drove into the ground, tho seven anchors, including that taken from the transport, had been used. They then let go an eighth, which was the sheet an-

* i. e. without an awning.

chor ; the ship still drove, but the anchors at length took fast hold. Five vessels were cast ashore. So great was this storm that people said it was raised by the power of Magic, and the quantity of rain was prodigious.

When the Scotch saw that the vessels had run aground they assembled together, and advancing against the Norwegians attacked them with missile weapons. They however, defended themselves gallantly under cover of their ships ; the Scotch made several attempts, at different times, but killed few, tho' many were wounded. King Haco, as the wind was now somewhat abated, sent in some boats with a reinforcement

Afterwards the Sovereign himself, attended by Thorlaug Rosa, set sail in a barge belonging to the Masters of the lights. As soon as the king's men approached the land the Scotch retired ; and the Norwegians continued a shore all night. The Scotch, however, during the darkness, entered the transport, and carried off as much of the lading as they could. On the morning, the king with a numerous reinforcement came on shore ; and he ordered the transport to be lightened, and towed out to the ships.

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In a little time, they descried the Scottish army, and it was so numerous they supposed the king of Scotland was present, † Oghmund

† The Scots writers are at a loss to determine, whether the Scottish army was commanded on that occasion by Alexander the third in person, or by Alexander high Stewart of Scotland great grand father to king Robert the 2d. the first of the Stewart line, however it is generally agreed by most writers, that the Scottish army consisted of three divisions, the first commanded by the Stewart of Scotland, under whose command was the Argyle, Atholl, Lennox and Galloway men, the second division was composed of the inhabitants of Lothian, Fife, Merse, Berwic, and Sterling, under the command of Patrick Earl of Dunbar. And by some it is thought the king himself led the 3d. Division which formed the center under whom fought the inhabitants of Perth-shire, Angus, Mearns, and the other Northern counties.

In Alexanders army, notice is taken of a young man named Fitzgerald an Irish-man, who upon account of some quarrel with his country

Krækidants with his company was stationed on a hill. The Scottish van skirmished with his men; and, their main body coming on, the Norwegians entreated the king, as they were anxious for his safety, to row to his fleet and to send them help. The king insisted on remaining on shore; but they would not assent to his continuing any longer so exposed; he, therefore, sailed out in a barge to his ship at the Cumbras. The following Barons remained on land, Lord Andrew Nicolson, Ogmund Krækidantz, Erling Alsaon, Andrew Pott, Ronald Ueka, Thorlaug Bofi, Paul Spoor. The whole number of soldiers with them was eight or nine hundred. Two hundred men were upon the rising-ground with Ogmund, but the rest of the troops were posted down upon the beach.

The Scottish army now advanced, and it was conjectured to consist of near fifteen hundred men fled to Scotland, and was well received by Alexander, and advanced in his army, he is said to have fought bravely at the battle of Inverlona, upon which account considerable honours and lands in Kintail were bestowed on him, his son was named Keneth from whom the Mackenzies a numerous clan are descended.

Knights. All their horses had breast-plates ; and there were many Spanish steeds in compleat armour. The Scottish king had, besides, a numerous army of foot-soldiers, well accoutred. They generally had bows and spears.

The Norwegians on the hill, apprehensive of being surrounded, began to retire in scattered parties towards the sea. Andrew Nicolson observing this came up to the rising-grounds, & desired Ogmund to draw off his men towards the beach but not to retreat so precipitately as he fled. The Scotch at this time attacked them furiously with darts and stones. Showers of weapons were poured upon the Norwegians, who defended themselves, and retired in good order. But when they approached the sea, each one hurrying faster than another, those on the back imagined they were routed. Some therefore leaped into their boats, and pushed off from land, others jumped into the transport. Their companions called upon them to return, and some returned tho few. Andrew Potr leaped over two boats, and into a third, and so escaped from land. Many boats went down, and some men were lost, and the rest of the Norwegians at last wheeled about towards the sea.

Here Haco of Steini, one of king Haco's house-hold, fell. The Norwegians were then driven south from the transport ; and were headed by Andrew Nicolson, Ogmund Krækidant, Thorlaug Bofi and Paul Soor. There soon began a severe contest, tho' very unequal, as the Scots fought against each Norwegian. Among the Scotch there was a young knight called Ferash, equally distinguished for his birth and fortune. He wore a helmet plated with gold and set with precious stones ; and the rest of his armour was of a piece with it. He rode gallantly up to the Norwegians, but no other ventured. He galloped frequently along the Norwegian line ; & then back to his own followers. Andrew Nicolson had now reached the Scottish van. He encountered this illustrious knight, and struck at his thigh with such force that he cut off, through the armour, with his sword which penetrated to the saddle. The Norwegian stripped him of his beautiful belt. The hardest conflict then commenced. Many fell on both sides, but more of the Scotch.

During the battle there was so great a tempest that king Haco saw no possibility of bringing the army ashore. Ronald, and Eilif of Naustadale, however, with some men, rowed to land

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and greatly distinguished themselves; as those troops who had before gone out in the boats. Ronald in the end, was repulsed to his ships; but Eilif behaved most heroically. The Norwegians now began to form themselves anew; & the Scotch took possession of the rising ground. There were continual skirmishes with stones and missile weapons; but towards evening the Norwegians made a desperate charge against the Scotch on the hill.

The Scotch then left the eminence, and fled, where they could, away to their mountains. The Norwegians, perceiving this, retired to their boats, and rowing out to their ships, luckily escaped the storm. On the morning they came back in search of the bodies of those who had dropt. Among the dead were Haco of Steini, and Thorgill Gloppa both belonging to king Haco's household. There fell, also, a worthy vassal called Karlhoved from Drontheim; and another vassal named Halkel from Fiorde. Besides, there died three Masters of the Lights, Thorstein Bat, John Ballhoved and Halward Buniard. It was impossible for the Norwegians, to tell how many were killed of the Scotch, because those who dropt were taken up, and re-

moved to the woods. King Haco ordered his dead to be carried to a church.

Five days after, king Haco commanded his men to weigh anchor, and to bring his ships close under the Cumbras. He was soon joined by the squadron which had been in Loch-long. On the fast day following the weather was good and the king sent some retainers ashore to burn the vessels which had been stranded; that same day the king sailed past Cumbra to Melansey where he lay some nights. Here he was met by the Commissioners he had sent to Ireland who assured him, that the Irish Oistmen would willingly engage to maintain his army till he freed them from the dominion of the English. King Haco was extremely desirous of sailing for Ireland; and, as the wind was not favourable, he held a Council on the subject, but the whole army was against this plan. He therefore, told them, that as he was short of provisions, he would steer for the Sudureyans. The king then ordered the body of Ivar Holm to be carried to Bute where it was interred.

Afterwards, king Haco sailed past Melansey

† Lamdash or Isla,

and lay some nights near Arran, then proceeded to Sandey, and so to the Mull of Kintire, and at night he arrived north at Gudey; next he sailed out to Ila sound where he remained two nights. King Haco laid a contribution, rated at three hundred head of Cattle, on the Island, but part was to be paid in meal, part in cheese. Haco set sail again on the first Sunday of winter; and met a fog and a storm so violent that few of the ships could carry their sails. The king, therefore, made for Kiararey; and about this time messengers passed between him and king John, but to little purpose. Here the king was informed that his troops had made depredations in Mull, and the some of that Mull-men, with two or three Norwegians, had been killed.

King Haco next sailed in to the Calf of Mull, where he stayed some nights. There king Dugal, and Allan his brother took leave of the king who gave them those estates, which king John formerly possessed----Magnus king of man and other Sudureyans had returned home before. He gave Bute to Rudri, and Arran to Margad. To king Dugal he gave that castle in Kintire which Guthorm Backa-kolf had besieged and taken during the summer. In this Expedition King Haco regained all those provinces which

Magnus Barefoot had acquired, and conquered from the Scotch and Sudureyans.

King Haco, leaving the Calf of Mull, sailed to Rauney. Here he overtook Balti a vassal of Sherland, with those who had been sent to the Orkneys, and to whom a permission had been given of returning to Norway. King Haco from Rauney steered north-wards. The wind being unfavourable, he made for Wester-ford in Sky, and ordered the Islanders to supply him with provisions. Next he sailed past cape Wrath, and arriving at Dyrness, there happened a calm, for which reason the king ordered the fleet to be steered into Gia-ford. This was done on the feast of the two Apostles Simon and Jude, which fell on a Sunday. The king spent the night there. On this festival, after mass had been sung, some Scots whom the Norwegians had taken prisoners, were presented to the king. The king detained one as a hostage, and sent the others up the country, at liberty on giving a promise that they would return with cattle. On the same day it happened that nine men belonging to Andrew Biufa's ship went ashore to procure water, and an outcry was soon heard from the continent. The crew, therefore, immediately setting off from their ship

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found two men swimming, the bodily wounded and took them on board; the other seven unarmed, and incapable of making any defence remained by their boat (which was left aground by the tide) and were killed by the Scotch. The Norwegians landing carried away their dead; the Scotch, in the mean time, fled to a wood. On the monday king Haco, sailed from Gifford after having liberated the Scottish hostage, and sent him ashore. The king in the evening reached the Orkneys, and anchored in a certain sound, to the north of Asmundsvø. In passing over Pentland-firth a terrible whirl-pool appeared, and in which a ship from Rygia-fylke, with all on board, perished. John of Hestby was driven through the straits, and was very near being swallowed up in the gulf; but, by the mercy of God, his ship was forced east to the ocean, and he made for Norway.

While king Haco remained in the Orkneys the most part of the troops sailed to Norway; some went with the kings permission, but others took leave for themselves. King Haco, on his arrival at the Islands, had at first given out, that he wou'd return immediatly to Norway; but, as it was a long time before the wind favoured him, he determined to winter in the Orkneys.

He, therefore, named twenty ships that were to remain with him, and dismissed the rest. All the vassals stayed with him, except Eilif of Naustdale, he sailed home; most of the gentry, however, continued with their Sovereign. The king then dispatched letters to Norway, concerning the necessaries he should want. After all Saints day the king steer'd for Medalland† harbour; but spent one day at Ronaldsha.

On the Saturday before Martinmas king Haco rode to the port of Medalland, and after mass he was taken very ill. He was aboard his ship during the night; but, on the morning, he ordered mass to be sung on shore. He afterwards held a council to deliberate where the vessels should be laid up; and ordered his men to be attentive, and see after their respective ships. Upon this each captain took the charge of his own galley. Some were laid up in the harbour of Medalland, and others at Skalpeid.

Next king Haco proceed to Skalpeid, and then rode to Kirkwall. He, with such officers as dined at his table, lodged in the Bishop's palace. Here the king and the Bishop kept separate tables in the halls, each for his own retinue; but the king dined in the upper story.

† probably some harbour in the mainland of the Orkneys.

He ordered certain districts to furnish his nobility, and household with provisions. Andrew Plytt had the inspection of the kings table, & delivered out to the courtiers, retainers, masters of the Lights, and other attendants their usual allowance. After the proper arrangements were taken concerning the disposal of the fleet the different captains went whether their ships were laid up. The Barons who remained at Kirkwall were Briniolf Johnson, Erling Alfson, Ronald Urka, Erling of Birkey, John Drotning and Erlend Red. The other Barons repair'd to their proper districts.

King Haco had spent the summer in much watchfulness, and anxiety. Being often called to deliberate with his captains, he had enjoyed little rest, and when he arrived at Kirkwall, he was confined to his bed by his disorder. Having lain for some nights, the illness abated, and he was on foot for three days. On the first day he walked about in his apartments; on the second, he attended at the Bishop's chapel to hear mass; and on the third he went to Magnus's Church, and walked round the shrine of St. Magnus earl of Orkney. He then ordered a bath to be prepared, and got himself shaved. Some nights after, he relapsed, and took again to his bed.

During his sickness, he ordered the Bible and Latin authors to be read to him. But finding his Spirits were too much fatigued by reflecting on what he had heard, he desired Norwegian books might be read to him night and day: first the lives of Saints, and, when they were ended, he made his attendants read the Chronicles of our kings from Haldand the Black, and so of all the Norwegian monarchs in succession one after the other. The king still found his disorder increasing. He therefore, took into consideration the pay to be given to each courtier, and half a mark to each of the masters of the lights, chamberlains, and other attendants on his person. He ordered all the silver plate belonging to his table to be weighed; and to be distributed if his standard silver fell short. At this time letters were wrote Prince Magnus concerning the government of the nation, and some things which the king wanted to have settled respecting the army. King Haco received extreme unction on the night before the festival of St. Lucia. Thorgill Bishop of Stavanger, Gilbert Bishop of Hamar, Henry, Bishop of Orkney, Abbot Thorleif, and many other learned men were present, and before the unction a present bade the king farewell with a kiss. H

ill spoke distinctly ; and his particular favour-
es asked him, if he left behind him any other
son then Prince Magnus, or any other heirs that
ould share in the kingdom, but he uniformly
ersisted that he had no other heirs in the male
female line, than what was publickly known.

When the histories of all the kings down to
uerer had been recited, he ordered the life of
that Prince to be read, & to be continued night
nd day, whenever he found himself indisposed
o sleep.

The festival of the Virgin St. Lucia hap-
pened on a Thursday, and on the Saturday after,
the kings disorder increased to such a degree,
that he lost the use of his speech ; and at mid-
night ALMIGHTY GOD called king Haco
out of this mortal life. This was a matter of
great grief to all those who attended, and to
most of those who heard of the event. The fol-
lowing Barons were present at the death of the
king, Briniolf Johnson, Erling Altson, John
Drottning, Ronald Urka, and some domestics
who had been near the king's person, during
his illness. Immediately on the decease of the
king, Bishops, and learned men were sent for

to sing mass. Afterwards all the company went out except Bishop Thorgill, Briniolf Johson and two other persons, who watched by the body, and performed all the services due to so illustrious, a Lord and Prince as king Haco had been. On Sunday the royal corpse was carried to the upper hall, and laid on a beir. The body was cloathed in a rich garb, with a garland on the head, and dressed out as became a crowned monarch. The masters of the lights stood with tapers in their hands, and the whole hall was Illuminated. All the people came to see the body, which appeared beautiful and animated, and the kings countenance was as fair and ruddy as while he was alive. It was some alleviation of the deep sorrow of the beholders to see the corpse of their departed Sovereign so decorated. The Nobilliry kept watch by the body during the night. On Monday the remains of king Haco were carried to St. Magnus church, where they lay in state that night. On Tuesday the royal corpse was put into a coffin, and buried in the Choir of St. Magnus Church, near the steps leading to the shrine of St. Magnus Earl of Orkney. The tomb was then closed, and a canopy was spread over it. It was also determined that watch should be kept over the king's grave all winter. A

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Christmas the Bishop and Andrew Plytt furnished entertainments, as the King had directed, and good presents were given to all the soldiers.

King Haco had given orders that his remains should be carried east to Norway, and buried near his father and relations. Towards the end of winter, therefore that great vessel, which he had in the west was launched, and soon got ready. On Ash-wednesday the corpse of king Haco was taken out of the ground; this happened on the third of the nones of March. The courtiers followed the corpse to Skalpeid where the ship lay, and which was chiefly under the direction of Bishop Thorgill, and Andrew Plytt they put to sea on the first Saturday in Lent; but meeting with hard weather, they steered for Silavog. From this place they wrote letters to Prince Magnus acquainting him with the news, and then set sail for Bergen. They arrived at Laxavog before the festival of St. Benedict. On that day Prince Magnus rowed out to meet the corpse. The ships was brought near to the king's palace; and the body was carried up to a summer house. Next morning the corpse was removed to Christ-church, and was attended by Prince Magnus, the two Queens, the courtiers.

and the town's people. The body was then interred in the Choir of Christ-church ; and Prince Magnus addressed a long and gracious speech to those who attended the funeral procession. All the multitude present expressed great sorrow of mind.

King Haco was buried three nights before the festival of the annunciation of the Virgin Mary ; and after the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ one thousand two hundred and sixty three years.

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IN consequence of the Battle of the Largs it appears that the Scots were flushed with so much success, and being determined to reduce the whole Western Isles to the Scottish crown, we find that in 1264. The Earls of Buchan, Marr, and Allan Durwart, proceeded with an army in order to reduce the Islanders to subjection, and that they proceeded with great severity, some of which they put to the Sword, and Transported others to the interior parts of the country, however this difference seems to have been set-

led in 1266 as we find a peace was concluded at Perth, whereat Alexander the third king of Scotland was present, as also his Nobles and clergy, and that the king of Norway was represented by the chancellor of his kingdom, and one of his Barons, the articles of Treaty were, that the king of Norway should resign over to the Scottish crown ; The Sodorians or Southern division of the Hebrides, and that they should for ever after belong to the kings of Scotland, together with their superiorities, rents, services, Homages, &c all other rights belonging to them, as also the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the patronage of the Bishoprick of man, and of the Isles, & that the Inhabitants of the Isles so ceded to the Crown of Scotland, should enjoy every privilege granted to them by the kings of Norway, without being answerable for any action they had been guilty of, while under the government of their old master : and that the said Inhabitants should in future be under the government of the kings of Scotland, and be in subjection to its Laws, unless they chuse to reside in England, in which case they had full liberty to remove without molestation.

Along with which king Alexander obliged himself and his successors, to pay in return for

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this renunciation, four thousand marks sterling, within four years after this date of the treaty, together with an annual sum of one hundred marks sterling, to be paid in the Church of St. Magnus in the Orkneys, by Alexander and his successors, to the king of Norway and his successors for ever.

However we find from the chronicle of Man and other historys that in 1270 the Inhabitants of Man fought gallantly with Alexander king of Scots, in an engagement near Roghalwath they maintained the victory after having slain four hundred and thirty five of the Scots army, from that time nevertheless it seems Man remained under the dominion of the Scots Crown, untill the time of Edward the first of England who on account of the weakness of John Baliol the then pretended king of Scots, was forced to resign it into the hands of the English monarch, during whose reign one of the family of Montacute claimed a right to the blood royal of Man, and being assisted with a considerable body of English Adventurers, drove the Scots out of it.

MCCCXIII. The victorious king Robert Bruce again recovered it, after having besieged the castle of Ruffin, which was defended by

Dingaway Dowyll, he at last took it and reduced the whole Island under his subjection, after which he created his nephew Randolph Earl of Murray, Lord or king of Man, but during the unfortunate reign of David Bruce, Montacute Earl of Salisbury, recovered Man from the hands of the Randolph family and in a short time thereafter sold it to W. Scrope. Upon the confiscation of whose estate Henry the fourth of England, bestowed it on Henry Piercy Earl of Northumberland: but, in about four years after the grant, Piercy was attained, and by the kings favour, the Island with its honours, were bestowed on the Stanley family; in which family the Earl of Derby enjoyed the title of king of Man, for many ages until by female succession it fell to the family of Atholl.

Reasons of state rendered it necessary, for the crown of Great Britain to purchase the customs of the Island, from the Atholl family. The Duke, however, retains his territorial property in the Island, and the inhabitants, many of their ancient constitutions and customs.

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ISLE of MAN.

THE extent and situation of this Island of Man, and the different names under which it is mentioned by the Ancients, are faithfully related by Mr. Camden, which I shall not here repeat. The Island is divided into seventeen parts, which are distinguished not by the name of Shires or Counties, but of Kirks ; and are called, The seventeen Parish Churches, every Church or Parish bearing the additional name of

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the Saint to whom the Parish-Church or Chapel, in old time, was dedicated. Their name are,

Kirk Christ of Rushin.	Kirk Christ of Ayre.
Kirk Harbery.	Kirk Bride.
Kirk Melue.	Kirk Andrew.
Kirk Santon.	Jorby, or St. Patrick of
Kirk Bradon.	Jorby.
Kirk Marcom.	Ballough.
Kirk. Concan.	Kirk Michael.
Kirk Connon.	Kirk Jerman.
Kirk Maughald.	Kirk Patrick of Peel.

These seventeen Kirks or Parishes are divided into six parts, which in the Manks language are called Sheeding; every sheeding comprehending three kirks or Parishes; except one which has only two. There are three small Islands which belong to the Isle of Man, the biggest of which is called the Calf of Man, and lies on the south side thereof, pointing westward. It is well stored with a sort of sea-fowl called Puffins, which are of a very unctuous Constitution. They breed in the Coney-holes, (the Coneyes leaving their Burrows for that time) and are never seen with their young, but either very early in the morning or late in evening, nourishing [as is conceived]

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their young with oyl : which drawn from their own constitution, is dropped into their mouths. For being open their is found in their crops no other sustenance but a single sorrel leaf, which the old give their young, for digestions's sake, as is conjectured. The flesh of these birds is nothing pleasant, being of a rank fish-like taste; but pickled or salted they may be ranked with Anchovies, Caviare, or the like. They are profitable in their feathers, and oyl, of which the Inhabitants make great use about their wool. They have likewise another sort of fowl in this little Island, which the Inhabitants call Barnacles, commonly said to be the same with the Soland-geese of Scotland : but really, the Soland-geese in that kingdom have no affinity to Barnacles, being quite of another kind. The other little Isle is called St. Michaels Island, and lies in the south-east part of Man ; which tho' it be the least, yet is it of greatest consequence, because of a castle therein.

The Island is not only environed with huge rocks round about ; but likewise at the mouth of every Haven, there are a great many rocky stones pointed like a pyramide, above water, besides a great many rugged stones that lie undiscovered under water. So that it

s dangerous to enter any of the Havens of this Island, without the assistance and conduct of some of the Native Mariners: The Haven of Douglass is reckoned the best and securest of any in the Island; but there are on both sides of the Island divers other Havens, very commodious for trade.

The air of this Island is sharp and cold in winter, but much more mild than in Wales; the frosts are short and seldom. The place is very wholesom to live in; for they never have any damps or venomous vapours arising out of the earth. The Plague was never known to have been there in any of their Ancestors memory. The Inhabitants are long-lived; they ordinarily living to four score, many to an hundred years, and upwards. The women are very fruitful. The soil, in the northern part of the Island, is for the most part heathy and gravelly ground, much resembling the mountainous parts of Wales; in the south they have very good meadow and pasture-ground. All parts of the Island yields store of all sorts of grain, both Barly, Wheat, Rye and Oates; not only enough for its own Inhabitants, but likewise for exportation to other places. They have oates in greatest plenty, of which the In-

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abitants generally make their bread. They have likewise great store of honey, flax and hemp.

Their Neat for the most part feed in heathy ground, and lye continually in the open fields both winter and summer; so that they are but small and poor, resembling those of Ireland, & much inferior to the English breed. Their horses are likewise poor and small, and very slightly, because of the little care taken about them: for they are never housed or dressed, but exposed to wind and weather in the coldest season. They will endure a great deal of labour and hardship; being all of a sooty black colour, and their hair long and stragling. The sheep thrive very well in this Island; they are fat, and their flesh well-tasted; but generally of a small bulk. The wool of them is very good; but they have a small quantity of a certain sort, which is remarkable, and far exceeds their other wool in fineness. This sort the Manksmen call Naughton-wool, which in their language signifies wool of a greyish colour: though (according to my Author) it resembles rather a sandy or deer-colour. The rarity of it is, that 'tis not to be found in any certain place of the Island, but that one only sheep of a whole flock always has this coloured wooll, and they are observed

never to impart the same to their lambs ; for that there is but a small quantity of it to be had throughout the Island. Here they have plenty of hogs, of unordinary bigness. There is also here great store of otters, badgers, foxes, hares, and conies. The hares of this island are very fat, which is a property in them not to be met with in many other countries. There are some Deer in the mountains, but they belong to the Lord of the Island, and therefore none are permitted to hunt them without a licence from him, under the penalty of a fine of three pounds, besides imprisonment during the Lord's pleasure.

The Hawks here are very good, and thought to equal, if not exceed those of Ireland. And therefore it was, that King Henry the fourth, in his Letters Patent of the grant of this Island to Sir John Stanley [the first king of Man of that name and race] obliged him, in lieu of all other services, upon the day of his and his Successors Coronation, to present him with a Case of Hawks. They have here store of geese, hens, ducks, and wild fowl. Neither Partridges nor Farkers will live in this Isle, though imported. The Isle of Man has this in common with Ireland, that it is free from toads, snakes, and all

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other such venomous creatures. I know Giralduſ|Cambrenſis [& from him Mr. Camden] both ſay, that this Iſland being equally diſtant from England & Ireland, there aroſe anciently a controverſie to which of the two Kingdoms it ſhould belong; which was decided by making experiment, whether the ſoil thereof would ſoſter any venomous creatures: and accordingly ſome toads and other venomous creatures being brought to make trial, and living upon the ſoil, the Iſland was adjudged to belong to Brittain, as participating more of the nature of it, ſoil, than that of Ireland. But, it ſeems, thoſe that were brought to make the trial, did not propagate their kind; for the Manſman do at this day glory in their immunity from ſuch noxious creatures: and my author does aver, that during his abode in the Iſland, he neither did ſee nor hear of any ſuch, except only Spiders, which Ireland alſo hath, though without venom. But whither theſe ſpiders of the Iſle of Man hath that quality to be without venom, he made no experiment.

The Iſland aboundſwith many little currents of freſh water; which, becauſe of their ſmallneſs, may be more properly called Rivulets than

Rivers. Their spring-water is of a pure pleasant taste. Here they have great store of salmon, cod, haddock, Macrel, raie, pike, thornback, and other sorts of fish; but especially of herrings. There are few or no oysters or muscles, but of crabs, lobsters, and cockles, great abundance.

There are no woods in the Island, although in the former times they had them in great plenty, and many oaks are now often digged up under ground. There is not a tree to be seen any where in the Island, except such as grow in gardens. There is no sea-coal as yet discovered in the Island; so their woods being destroyed, there would be a great scarcity of fuel, were it not that they have sufficient store of sea-coal imported. The only fuel which the Island naturally produces, is gorze or heath (which they call ling) as also broom. They have plenty of a coarse sort of turf; but of Turf that is good, they have but a small quantity.

The Island of Man is indifferently populous, neither wanting nor abounding with Inhabitants. In former times it had more Towns, and was

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more peopled than now. At present they have only four principle Towns, which are, Castle-Town, the Metropolis of the Island (that went formerly by the name of Russin,) Douglas, Ramsey and Peel. They are all four situated in the maritime parts of the Island; each of them has a harbour, and at every haven there is a castle, and a sconce or block-house. The houses are all of one fashion, low built, and thatch'd, and only two stories high: the upper rooms [which they commonly let to strangers to lodge in] are ciled over head, & plaistered. They begin to improve in their building; for in Castle-Town and Douglas they build their houses three stories high, and cover them with tile instead of thatch. In these Towns of the Isle of Man, they have no Mayors or Aldermen, nor so much as a Recorder, Town-Clerk, or any such Officer. When any riots or disorders happen in the Towns, either some of the Lord's Officers, or the Constable [which is the same as Governor] of the next adjacent Fort, may apprehend the Delinquent, and send him under a guard to Castle-Town, where he is brought before the Governor of the Island, and being examined, is either sentenced or dismissed, according as his innocence or his guilt

appears. As for private injuries and injustices, which require a suit of Law, they are decided according to their customary Law twice a year in their sheeding-courts. The principal Forts are the Castle of Ruffin, where the Lord of the Island keeps his Court; and Peel Castle, which Mr. Camden calleth only a Block-house; but it is now acknowledged to be the second Fortres of the Island, and is of great importance. It is strongly fortified both by nature and art, by the sea round about it, and by walls and ramparts within. It is the common prison for all offenders in the Island; the Kings of England have frequently banished hither, and confined to this prison, several noble persons.

This Island seems to have been peopled from the Hebrides, or western Isles of Scotland, their language being the very same with Scots-Irish. The people are stiled Manksmen, and their language Manks. Many of their words are derived from the Latine and Greek, and some are pure English. Such words, for the most part, signifie things foreign, and which originally were not known to them, or in use amongst them. In their language they always put the substantivé before the adjective, as mangoed, woman fair. The Peasants of the Island are tall in

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stature, but of a gross heavy spirit, & surly temper; imposing upon others, and shewing little respect to strangers. They live in little Huts, made up of small stones and clay instead of walls and most commonly thatched with broom, which have only one room and that without any cieling. In this single room the whole family lyes; and among the meaner sort, they are forced to place their cows in a corner of the room. They are very sparing and abstemious in their diet; their constant food being salt butter, herrings and oat-cakes. Their drink is either simple water, or water mixed with milk, or butter milk. Their bedding is generally hay or straw, and they are much addicted to the musick of the Violin. The Inhabitants are not mutinous or rebellious, but continue firm in their loyalty to the Lord of Island, and detest all our commotions and divisions both in the Church and state. Their Gentry are very courteous and affable, and are more willing to discourse with one in English than their own language. In all their carriage, apparel, and house-keeping, they imitate the English Gentry. They do not live in towns or villages, but in mansion-houses, built upon their own lands in the country; which, for the most part, are high well-built houses.

after the English fashion. There are but about six families of note in the whole Island, yet some of these are of great antiquity, and especially those that bear the surname of Christian and Cannel. For out of these two families they ordinarily choose their Deemsters, who are their Judges. In former times there were several Noblemen of this Island, but at present there are none, save the Lord of the Island. Not only the Gentry, but likewise such of the Peasants as live in the towns, or frequent the town-markets, do both understand and speak the English language.

If any who is not a native desires to live in the Island, he must have the leave of the Lord [or of the Governor, in the Lord's absence] and then he enjoys all privileges, as if he had been a native. When any strangers arrive in the Island, the Governor is presently acquainted with it; who sends the Comptroller, or some other officer to the town where the strangers land, to examine what they are, whence they come, and what their business is in the Island. Before this officer the stranger is to appear immediately after his landing, and after satisfying him in these questions, is dismissed. It is ex-

pected of all strangers, of what quality soever, that after their arrival, the very same day, if it be not too late, they go and visit, first the Lord, and afterwards the Governor of the Island, who, both reside in the Castle-Town. If they land at any of the other havens, and be unprovided of a horse, the Comptroller, by his place, is to furnish them with a horse, to carry them to Castle-Town; and this at the charges of the Lord of the Island. Upon their arrival at Castle-Town, they are waited on by a Gentleman of quality, who conducts them first to the palace of the Lord, and afterwards to the Governor's apartment; where, after some few general questions, they are civilly dismissed.

The method of trading and commerce which the Inhabitants of this Island use with foreigners is singular; and truly, beneficial both to the natives and to strangers. The Country, at a Tinwald, or their prime Court, always chooses four Merchants to buy the foreign commodities for the whole Island; and they are sworn by the Deemsters to deal justly and fairly for the country's profit. When any ship arrives in the Island with Salt, Iron, Pitch, or Tar, or any other foreign commodity, these four Merchants

[together with the foreign Merchant] appear before the Governor of the Island, to treat about the prices of the commodities imported, and to make a bargain. Whatsoever bargain is made by these four, the country is to stand to, and obliged to take the goods of the foreign Merchant, and pay for them according to the rates agreed on. The people of the country are to bring in their native commodities of wool, hides, tallow, or such like; and are to have for the same, according to the agreement made, their equal proportion of the Salt, Iron or other commodities imported. If the commodities brought in by the country people, will not extend to the value of the stranger's commodities, then the four Merchants are to assess the rest of the commodities upon the country, every one his equal proportion, for which they are to pay ready money, according to the prices agreed on by the four Merchants. By this means the foreign Merchant is much encouraged to bring in things necessary for the Island, and the people have by the faithfulness of their four Merchants the full benefit of the commodities imported, which otherwise some private men of the country would certainly enhance for their own profit. The foreigners, (viz. the English, Scots, and

Irish, and the greater thereof, be Fishermen above three little boats transporting. In former times with shipping score sail, bark above

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Irish, and none almost of any other nation) drive the greatest trade in the towns; the natives thereof, being for the most part Mariners or Fishermen: although there are not at present above three or four in a town, that have small little boats of their own, wherewith they trade, transporting and importing petty commodities. In former times, this Island was better stored with shipping, being able to equip a fleet of four-score sail, but at this day they have not any bark above forty tun.

In this Island, they had no use of money till the late troubles of England; during which, many loyalists flying thither for shelter, so plentifully supplied them with it, that many of the tenants were enabled to pay their rents in money, which formerly they paid in sheep, hogs, &c. The current coin of this Island, is, the Scotch, English, and Irish: they neither have, nor ever had any proper coin of their own.

Mr. Camden, in the account he gives of this Island, has been mis-informed as to some custom. He says, that the women of the Island of Man going abroad, do gird themselves about with

their with winding-sheet that they purpose to be buried in, to shew themselves mindful of their mortality. It is indeed customary here for the women that live in the country, when they walk abroad, to wrap themselves up in a blanket but without any other design than to defend themselves from the cold, as they tell every one that asks them a reason. Besides, these blankets which they wear, are quite of a different sort from winding-sheets, the blankets being generally made of woollen, whereas all shrowds are of linnen. These blankets are only worn by the country-women, who generally have a better sort of blanket for Sundays, and another for working days; but in towns they are hardly wore by any [women], whether poor or rich. But further, that this wearing of Blankets was never designed by them for a Memento Mori, is evident from an old customary law among them, by which it is ordained, that the Sunday-blankets, viz. those of the better sort, be given to the next child, and those of the worse sort, which they wear upon the work-days, be given for Corbes, that is, be sold with the other goods of the deceased, to pay debts; which is by no means consistent with their using them as winding-sheets to be buried in. It is at this day a common custom

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in many places of Scotland, for the country women to wear these kiod of blankets when they go abroad; but they are of no other use then to shelter them from the cold, and are of a quite different nature from what they use for winding-sheets. So that it is probable, this custom of wearing blankets among the women of the Isle of Man, is of the same nature and design with that of Scotland, and has been introduced into the Isle by its first Inhabitants, who, as I have already said, came probably from the western parts of Scotland, where this custom is, among the country women, generally practiced, even to this very day. Another mistake there is in the account which Mr Camden had from Bishop Merrick, of this Island, That the Isle of Man is free from Thieves and Beggars. As for Theft, there is no robbing in the highway, but you may travel there securely in any part of the Island; but the poorer sort of this Isle, even of both sexes, are very much given to pilfering, which appears from the severe laws made against stealing of ling, hay, hens, &c. As for Beggars, there are divers of them in the Island, both natives and Irish. The Irish are more clamorous than the natives: the pa-

tives never cry and beg at the doors; but without knocking, open the latch of the door, and entering in, take a stool and sit down by the fire, and then ask an alms.

The laws and statutes of this Island are such, as the Lord Cooch saith, the like of them are not to be found in any other place. But notwithstanding this Island has continued a kingdom for many hundred of years; yet there never was, nor is there at this day extant, any treatise to inform us of their laws, customs and jurisdictions. In former times they were governed by a *jus non scriptum*, which was committed to the fidelity of their deemsters, as a thing holy and sacred, and by them delivered to posterity by oral tradition only; so that whatever they pronounced, was to be held for law. This custom, it is probable, they received from the Druides, who, as Cæsar saith, would not by writing prostitute any thing to the vulgar. And therefore from all antiquity, and even at this day, the Mankmen do call their laws *Breast laws*; as being deposited, and locked up in the breasts of their Deemsters, and keys only. Thus was this Island governed from the beginning till it was given to Sir John Standly and his

Heirs by coming Michael Gentleman Governor inconvenient that for the courts, or down by the a Register like cases books of use, but if no one can deposited with three nor, the R the Island be very ju with the g are very an In former was necess this custom upon by the the two d ing the for

Heirs by king Henry the fourth. He, at his coming hither, brought over with him one Michael Blondel, a very wise understanding Gentleman of Lancashire, whom he made Governor of the Island: and he observing the inconvenience of their Breast-laws, ordered, that for the future, all law-cases decided in their courts, or by their Deemsters, should be written down by the Clerk of their Rolls, and kept as a Register of Precedents, when the same, or the like cases should chance to fall out again. These books of precedents none are admitted to peruse, but the Lord's officers only; and of them no one can have access to them alone. They are deposited in the Treasury, and their locked up with three keys, which are kept by the Governor, the Receiver General, and Comptroller of the Island. These laws are acknowledged to be very just and equitable, and are executed with the greatest mildness: the most of them are very ancient, even above a thousand years. In former times, the voice of the whole people was necessary to the making a new law, but now this custom is abrogated, and what ever is agreed upon by the Lord of the Island, the Governor, the two deemsters, and twenty four knights, obtains the force of a law. Their new laws or

statutes are always proclaimed in that court, which the Mankimen call a Tinwald. In is publickly kept, sub dio, upon a little hill, adjoining to a little Chapel, dedicated to St. John Baptist, two miles from Peel-town. The ancient manner of holding this court was this. The Lord of the Island was to sit here in a chair of state, with a royal cloth or canopy over his head, with his face to the east, and his sword before him, holding with the point upward. His Barons, viz. the Bishops and Abbots, with the rest in their degrees, sat beside him; his beneficed men, or fee'd council and Deemsters sat before him; his Gentry and Yeomanry in the third degree, and the twenty four keys in their order, and the commons stood without the circle, with three Clerks in their surplices.

All possible care is taken in this Island for the speedy execution of justice. For although the freeing-courts (which are, as it were, their Terms) do meet but twice a year; yet for the quicker dispatch of justice, there is erected a court of chancery, representing the Lord's person; and this court the Governor may keep every week, as occasion shall require. Besides the customary laws do so empower the Governor, or any of the two Deemsters; as that in effect they are courts of record in themselves.

If either way, and against and business, the Governor fore him. the debt of twowith is due; ei Token for Lockman. If the ma verdict of The citation in the form The Plaintiff eth his con sheweth is of them to common e upon that This stone being give the Crown besides; a is bound t ancient cust

If either be but riding or walking in the Highway, and if any person have cause of complaint against another, for debt, or any extraordinary business, he may procure a Token from the Governor or Deemster, to bring the party before him. And if the party do either confess the debt or matter, or it appear by the testimony of two witnesses upon their oaths, that such a debt is due; either of the said officers may have their Token for execution to the Coroner or to his Lockman. And this is as good and valid, as if the matter had in court received trial by verdict of the Jury, or by a Decree in chancery. The citations in courts of this Island are not in the form of a Writing, but after this manner. The Plaintiff cometh to the comptroller, & entereth his complaints; & taking a copy thereof, he sheweth it to the Governor or Deemster. Either of them takes up a piece of blew slate, (which is common enough in any part of the Island) and upon that slate scrapes what mark he pleases. This stone so marked, is called a Token; which being given to the Plaintiff, he delivereth it to the Crowner of the place where the Defendant resides; and the Defendant having received it, is bound to appear and answer. It has been an ancient custom in that Island, that if the Plaintiff

find his adversary present in the court while the court is sitting, he may take him by the arm, and bring him before the Governor; and set his foot upon his adversary's foot, and there plead his cause against him, without the formality of summoning him with a Token. In these courts, each Party pleads his own cause viva voce, so that they have no occasion for any Lawyers, Proctors, or Attorneys; which custom obtains but in few places of Europe, as in Sweden and Denmark. From these courts there lies an Appeal to the Lord of the Island, and from him to the king of England: but it seldom happens that they have any Appeals. All causes, both in Spiritual and temporal courts are prosecuted and ended without one penny of charges.

They had here an old custom concerning debts; which is now abolished. When the debtor died, and was buried, and there remained no writings to prove the debt, the creditor came to the Grave of the deceased, and laid himself all along with his back upon the Grave, with his face towards heaven, and a Bible on his breast; and there he protested before God that is above him, and by the contents of the

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Bible on his breast, that the deceased there buried under him, did owe him so much money; and then the Executors were bound to pay him, But in the year 1609 this custom was abolished, and such controversies order'd to be tried according to the form of Law, by Witnesses or otherwise.

In this Island there are several of those round hills, which in the plains of Wiltshire are very frequent; and by the Inhabitants termed Barrows. In the midland parts of England they are called Lawes, and are commonly held to be places of Sepulture. Mr. James Chaloner, during his abode in the Isle, caused one of these to be opened, in which were found 14 rotten Urns, or earthen Pots, placed with their mouths downwards; and one more neatly then the rest, in a bed of fine white sand, containing nothing but a few brittle bones, (as having passed the fire) but no ashes left discernible. Some of these are environed with great stones pitched end-ways in the earth; and some of the Urns found enclosed in Coffins of stone, one Coffin containing divers of them.

The Isle of Man hath, ever since its first plant-

ation, been reputed a Monarchical State; and whoever is of right Lord of it, may not only use the title of king, but may cause himself to be crowned with a Crown of Gold; though it is not improbable that in their first and original Installations, they made use of a Crown of Iron, as has been heretofore done by the kings of England; and as Charles the fourth, Emperour of Germany, was crowned at Milan, An. 1334. The kings of Man having now of a long time waven their title of king, and instead thereof assumed the title of Lord; but they still retain almost all the Jura Regalia they enjoyed heretofore. They have still power of life and death; to banish or condemn to perpetual Imprisonment; to raise men and money; to place or displace any officer in the Island at their own pleasure; and all fines and forfeitures, in case of Treason, Felony, and Felodese, do belong to them. The greatest difference betwixt king and Lord of Man, is, That the kings were crowned, whereas the Lords now are only publicly proclaimed and installed. The king created Barons, made Knights and Esquires but the Lords never confer any titles of honour. The kings of Man in old times, according to the Manks tradition, clam'd the whole Island

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and all the revenues thereof, as belonging to the Crown. The Inhabitants had no right to any inheritance in the Island, but were only Tenants at will, and held their lands of the king for the performance of certain duties and services. And this tenure they called, The holding by the straw; which was first changed into Leases for three Lives, during the late civil Wars, thereby to augment the Lord's Revenues, the Tenants being then obliged to pay yearly a quiet-rent, and a fine at renewing. The kings of this Island have at different times been tributaries both to the kings of England, Scotland, and Norway; and were obliged, in token of their subjection to these States, to pay a certain homage at the coronation of any of the Princes of these kingdoms. They have made many Wars, in attempts to enlarge their dominions beyond the Confines of this little Island; not only in Venedotia, against the king of North-wales, especially in Anglesey; but also in Ireland, where Godfred, son to Olave, King of Man, was crowned king of Dublin, and subdued a great part of Leinster, but left it not to his successors likewise, for some years, by the favour and aid of Magnus king of Norway, they had

under their subjection some, if not all the Islands, on the west part of Scotland, which are called Hebrides; and upon this account stiled themselves kings of Man, and of the Islands. But Alexander king of Scotland, An. 1366. not only recovered these Islands, but reduced the Isle of Man it self to his subjection, and placed petty kings or princes therein. The possession of this Island did without any interruption continue in the name and family of the Stanleys for 246 years; the Grant thereof, together with the Patronage of the Bishoprick, having been given by Henry the fourth, by Letters Patents, to Sir John Stanley and his heirs, in the year 1403. And during our late Civil Wars, in the year 1649. the Lord Fairfax, Captain General of the Parliament's Forces, obtained a Grant of the said Island from the Parliament of England; the then Earl of Derby's estate being confiscate for bearing Arms for the king against the Parliament, and himself beheaded at Bolton. But it was afterwards restored to the Family of Derby, who are the present Lords of that Island.

The supream and principal Officers in this Island, are only five in number; and they constitute the Lord's Privy Council. They are,

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the Governour of the Island, the two Deemsters, the Controller, and the Receiver General. They all of them hold their Offices durante bene placito, and are obliged to be constantly resident in Castletown, that they may be ready to advise and consult with the Lord upon any emergent occasion. The Governour has the whole command of the Island under the Lord. The Deemsters are their Judges, both in civil and criminal Cases. They are always chosen out of the natives by the Lord; it being necessary they should understand & speaks the Manks Language, that they give sentences in Courts, and understand the pleadings of the Plaintiffs and defendants before them. They are only two in number, and divide the Island betwixt them, the one having jurisdiction over the North part, the other over the South. The Controller's Office is, to call the Receiver General to an account once every quarter: he is also clerk of the Rolls, and has the pession belonging thereto. The Receiver General is by his place to receive all the Rents due to the Lord of the Island, from the inferior Collectors.

To these are subordinate some other Officers, as the 24 Keys of the Island, a Water-Bailiff

the Lord's Attorney General, the Coroners and the Moors. The Water Bailiff is, as it were, Admiral of the Island; his Office is to seize on all wrecks at sea for the Lord's use, and to take care of all business relating to the Herring Fishing. The Attorney General is to plead all the causes in which the Lord of the Island is concerned, and all the causes of the Widows and Infants. The Keys of the Island are so called, because they are to lay open and discover the true antient Laws and customs of the Island. They are chosen by the Lord himself out of the natives; and though they, together with the Deemsters, hold their Offices but durante bene-placito, yet are they seldom turned out during their lives. They are always assisting to the Deemsters in the determining of cases of great difficulty; and from the Sentence of these there is commonly no Appeal. No new law can be made, or custom introduced or abolished, but by the consent of the Deemsters and the 24 Keys of the Island. These Keys write down all the customs and Statutes of the Island, for the help of their memory; that they may be the better enabled to give Sentence, when called to consult of any of these matters. As to the number of the Keys, Mr Camden has been

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misinformed; for he says they are only 12, whereas they are 24 in number. 'Tis true, that since the time of the antient Orrys, they have not been constantly this number; that depending on the pleasure of the Lord of the Island: but there is no ground to believe they were ever so few as twelve, and they have been for the most part 24. The Coroners or Crowners in Man, (who in the Manks language are called Annos) are the same as our Sheriffs in England, and each of them has under him another Officer, who is as it were, Under-Sheriff, and is called a Lockman. The number of the Coroners is according to the number of the Sheedings, which are six: every Sheeding hath its Coroner. The Moors are the Lord's Bailiffs, to gether up his Rents in that Sheeding where they reside, and to pay the same to the Receiver General.

It is customary in this Island, and that from all antiquity, that some of the Clergy be present and assist at the court of Gaol-delivery; the Bishop himself being present there, when in the Island. The Evidence against Delinquents is first to be taken by spiritual Officers, and by them testified to temporal court. But they are

obliged to remove when any Sentence of death is to be pronounced. No person guilty of manslaughter is allowed the benefit of clergy, nor can be saved, but by the Lord of the Island's Pardon. No Execution of any malefactor is to be in the passion-week. No Merchant can transport money out of the Island without Licence; neither without Licence can any native go out of the Island. If any one do force or ravish a woman, if she be married, he is to suffer death; but if a maid or single-woman, the Deemster gives her a Rope, a Sword and a Ring; and she has it put in her choice, either to hang him with the rope, or to cut off his head with a sword, or to marry him with the ring. In former times, Women-Malefactors were to be put in a sack, and sowed up, and so flung from a rock into the sea, as Mr. Camden says; but now women are hanged as the men; only Witches are burnt. If any man have a child by a woman, and within two years after marries the woman, the child is legitimated by the customary Laws. If a woman bring forth a dead child, the child is not to be buried in the Church-yard, except the mother take her oath, that she has received the Sacrament since the quickening of the child. All the Swine, of what age so-

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ever, belonging to Felons, are the Lord's; & all their Goats do belong to the Queen of Man. No Act of Parliament made in England doth bind the king's Subjects in the Isle of Man, unless the said Island be therein expressly named. The Isle of Man being within the Fee of the king of England, the Manksman are adjudged to be the king's natural Subjects born, and are capable of inheriting Lands in England.

The religion professed in this Island is exactly the same with church of England. The Manksmen are generally very respectful to their clergy, and pay their Tithes without the least grudging. They own St. Patrick for their Apostle, and hold him in the greatest veneration. Next to him, they honour the memory of St. Manghald, one of their Bishops; whose Feast they never fail to celebrate twice a year. The Bible was translated into the Manks tongue by Dr. Philips, Bishop of Man, but by reason of his death, it never came to the Press; so that the Ministers read the scriptures to the people in the Manks language out of the English.

There have been three Monasteries in this Isle; the chief of which was the Monastery of

Ruffin in Castle-Town, the common burying-place of the king's of Man; which by the Ruins thereof appears to have been a goodly Fabrick. There was also the priory of Douglas, and house of the Friars Minors at Brinnaken. Besides these Monasteries, there were several others without the kingdom, upon which the kings of this Island conferred titles of lands within the Island, as the Priory of St. Bees, or de Sancta Bega, in Cumberland; upon the Abbey of Whittern or Candida Casa in Galloway of Scotland; and upon the Abbey of Banchor in Ireland. For this cause, the Prior and Abbots of these houses were Barons of Man, and were obliged to give their attendance, as such, upon the kings and Lords thereof, when required.

As to the Bishoprick of Man, Mr. Camden saith, that it was founded by the Pope Gregory the fourth, about the year 140 and the Bishop thereof was named Sodorensis, from a little Island near Castle-Town in the Isle of Man, where the Episcopal See was instituted. This error of Mr. Camden's is confuted by the authority, not only of Irish and Manks Tradition concerning their first conversion to christianity, but likewise of all the historians that have wrote the

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life of St. Patrick, who is generally believed to have converted that Island to Christianity. They affirm that St. Patrick having converted the Island about the year 447. left one Germanus Bishop thereof; and after his death consecrated two other Bishops to succeed him, whose names were Conindrius and Romulus, fellow-Bishops; and to them succeeded one St. Maughald. This is confirmed by the testimony of the learned Antiquary Bishop Usher. Besides these four there is another Bishop of Man mentioned by Boethius and Hollinshend, whose name was Conanus, and who had been Tutor to Eugenius the fifth, king of Scotland, who began to reign An. Dom. 684. which was above 130 years before Gregory the fourth sat in St. Peter's Chair. So that this Bishoprick appears to be near 400 years of greater antiquity than Mr Camden makes it. These Bishops above named were called Bishops of Man only, and not Bishops of Sodor; for that Bishoprick was not founded till near 400 years after; and the Bishops of Man were never called Bishops of Sodor, till after the union of the two Bishopricks, Sodor and Man. Mr Camden's mistake may proceed from confounding the Bishopricks of Sodor &

Man, making them one and the same; whereas they were quite distinct. The Bishoprick of Sodor was indeed first instituted by Pope Gregory the fourth, about the time that Mr Camden Places the foundation of the Bishoprick of Man. But it is placed in the Isle Jona, or in St Columb's Isle, corruptly called Colm-kill, a little Island among the Hebrides, belonging to Scotland. This new erected title of Sodor, the Bishops of the Western Isles possessed solely, until the year 1098. that King Magnus of Norway, conquering the Western Isles and the Island of Man, united the two Bishopricks of Sodor and Man; which continued so united for the space of 235 years, till the English were fully possessed of the Isle of Man; in 1333. During this union, the Bishops always stiled themselves Bishops of Sodor and Man; but before the uniting of the Bishopricks, the Bishops of Man were never stiled Bishops of Sodor.

The Bishops of Man were heretofore looked upon as Barons, and were always to assist at the Inauguration of a new king or Lord of Man, and there to pay their homage to him for the temporalities they enjoyed. The Bishop hath his own particular court, where the Deemsters

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of the Island sit Judges. The Bishop himself hath no hand in the assessment of the fines in his own court; yet has he all the fines and perquisites, after they are assessed by the Deemsters and other Officers of the Lord's that are present. This particular Priviledge the Bishop of Man has at this day. That if any of his tenants do commit Felony, and be brought to the Bar of the court of the Gaol-delivery, with the rest of the Felons, before the Governor and Deemster; the Bishop's Steward may demand the prisoner from the Bar, and he shall have him delivered to be tried at the Bishop's court. The forfeitures of Lands of any Delinquent holding of the Bishop, do belong to him; but the Delinquent's goods and person are at the Lord's disposal. The Abbots of this Island were allowed the like privileges. The Bishop of Man keeps his residence in the village called Bal-Curi. The Bishoprick is under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of York. During the Norwegian conquest, they were under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan of Norway, which is Drontheim. When the Bishoprick falls void, the Lord of the Island names a Bishop, and presents him to the king of England for his Royal Assent, and then to the Archbishop

of York for his Consecration. This Bishop has no voice in the upper house of Parliament, but is allowed to sit uppermost in the lower house of Convocation in England.

The Clergy here are generally natives, and have had their whole education in the Island. They are not any ways taxed with ignorance or debauchery: they have all a competent maintenance, at least 50 or 60 pounds a year. The ministers who are Natives have always the addition of Sir; (unless they be Parsons of the parishes, which are but few; most of the Parsonages being impropriated to the Lord of the Isle or the Bishop.) As thus, Sir Thomas Parr, minister of Kirk-Malew. But if they have the title of Parson, then they are only called Mr as Mr Robert Parr, Parson of St Mary of Ballaugh.



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THE length of this Island from North to South, is about 30 miles, its breadth from eight to fifteen, and the Latitude in the middle of the Island is fifty four degrees, sixteen minutes North, it is said on a clear day the three Britan-
nic kingdoms may be seen from the Island.
Ruslin is the chief Town of the Island, the
bishops see was erected here and was antiently
called Sodor, which in the Norwegeian language,
signifies South, as Norder signifies North, so that
the whole southern division of the Isles, from

the Isle of Bute, to the Isle of Sky, was antiently under the Jurisdiction of the bishop of Man and is the reason of his being dignified with the title of bishop of Sodor.

Within two miles of this Town there is a good harbour, secured by a fort and at the foot of the Castle, there is a creek for small Vefels, but dangerous.

Douglas is already described by Camden, only it may be further observed, that it is presently the most flourishing and populous Town in the Island.

Peel, formerly Holmtown, has a fort in a small Island and a Garrison well supplied with Cannon, here it stands the antient Cathedral, the Lord's house with lodgings of the bishops and some other remains of Antiquity.

Ramsay, to the North, a most noted and spacious haven, in which the greatest fleet may ride at Anchor with safety enough from all winds but the North east; and in that case they need not be embayed. This Town standing upon a

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beach of loose Sand or Shingle, is in danger if not timely prevented of being washed away by the Sea.

Laxey, on the east side, has a large harbour ; and the bishop generally resides at Bala Curni on the South.

Printing was Introduced into this Island in 1767. by Dr. Wilson there bishop and since Mr. Camdens time the Bible has been printed in the Manks language and also several religious books.

There are several curiosities to be met with in this Island such as Runic, Sepulchral; Inscriptions and Monuments of ancient. Brass Daggers and other weapons of that metal and partly of pure Gold, which are sometimes dug up, and seem to Indicate the riches of its ancient Inhabitants.

T H E E N D.

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